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A

NEW GRAMMAR

OF THE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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Salma Hale

Si quid novistis rectius istis,  
Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.

*Horace.*

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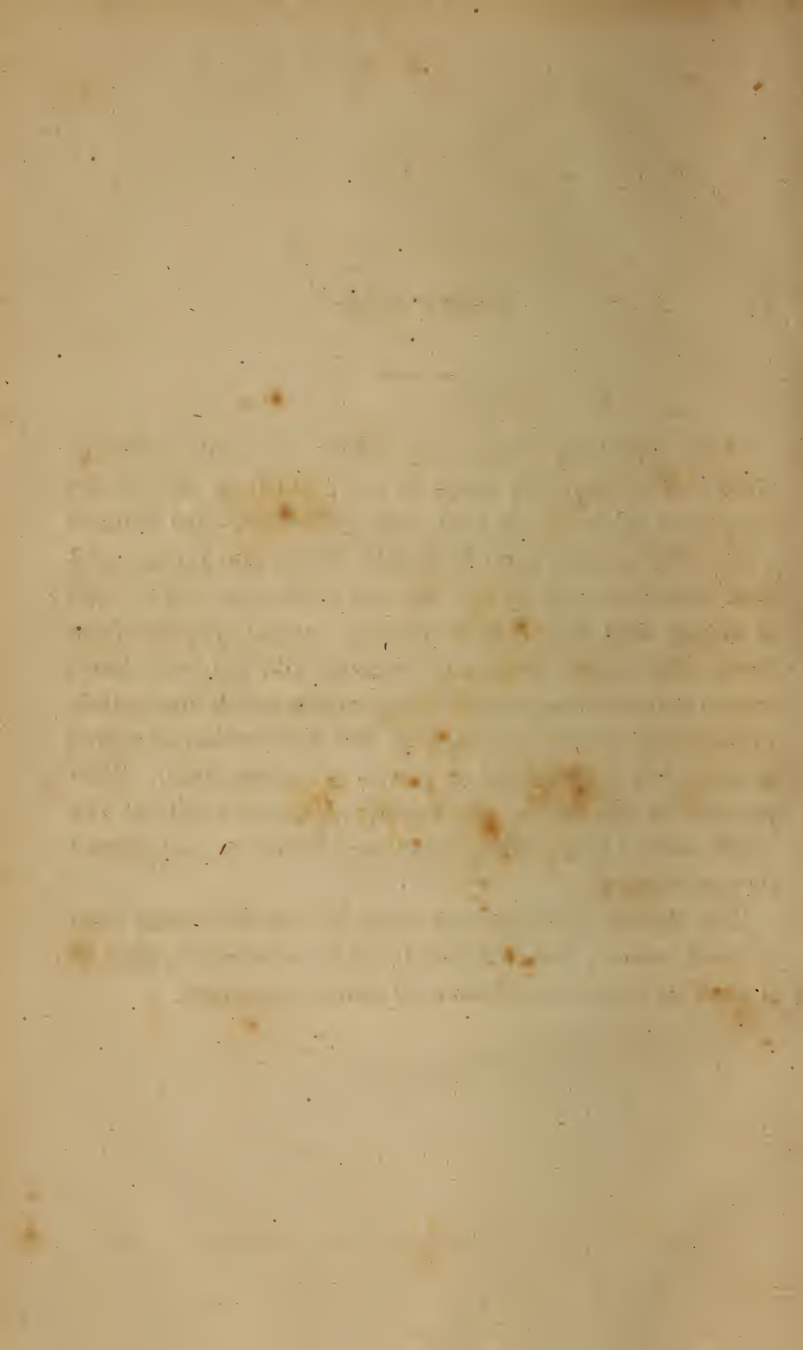
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## PREFACE.

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THE following Grammar differs, in many respects, from the Grammars most in use; but it is only in the treatment of the Verb that these differences are important. The scholar who is taught that *a* and *the* are articles, and that *each*, *every*, &c. are pronouns, and he who is taught that they are adjectives, would doubtless use them alike in speaking and writing; but the Verb holds such a commanding rank among words, and is susceptible of so many modifications, that the inculcation of errors in regard to it must lead to errors in composition. That portion of the Grammar, therefore, which treats of the Verb should be carefully examined before it is approved or condemned.

The Syntax occupies less space in this Grammar than in most others; but that will not be considered a fault, if it shall be found to embrace all that is necessary.



A  
NEW GRAMMAR  
OF THE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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GRAMMAR is the art of speaking and writing a language with propriety.

It is divided into four parts: Orthography, Etymology, Syntax, and Prosody.

In this work, Etymology and Syntax only will be treated of.

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PART I.

ETYMOLOGY.

It belongs to this part of grammar to shew into how many kinds or classes the words of a language may be divided; the nature or properties of the words of each class; and the modifications or changes which they may admit.

There are, in the English language, eight different kinds or classes of words, commonly called parts of speech; namely, Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives, Verbs, Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Interjections.

Many words belong to two or more of these classes; thus, *fear* may be used as a noun and a verb; and *further*, may be used as an adjective, a verb, and an adverb.



## CHAPTER I.

## OF NOUNS.

Noun is from the latin word *nomen*, signifying name.

A noun is the name of any thing that exists, or of which we can have an idea:—*Boston, man, tree, the soul, thought*; the *beginning* of the world; he waited for the *moving* of the waters.

Nouns are either proper or common.

Proper nouns are the names appropriated to individuals, or single objects:—*George, Vermont, Hudson, Jowler*, the horse, *Eclipse*.

Common nouns are the names of sorts or species, and are equally applicable to any individual of the sort or species:—*animal, river, tree, dog, virtue*.

Proper nouns, when used to denote a class, become common nouns:—he is the *Washington* of the age; Charles the twelfth, that *Cæsar* of the north.

A common noun, when used as the name of an individual, becomes a proper noun:—Mr. *Carpenter* is a baker; the sloop, *Eagle*.

To Nouns belong Person, Gender, Number, and Case.

**PERSON.** There are three persons: first, second, and third. Nouns are of the first person when used to designate the person speaking or writing:—*I, Paul*, write to thee, &c.; they are of the second person when used to designate the person addressed;—*child* of mortality, whence comest thou; and they are of the third person when they designate the person or thing spoken of:—the *tree* is known by its *fruit*; *memory* is a *faculty* of the *mind*. Nouns are seldom used in the first or second person.

**GENDER.** There are three genders; the masculine, the feminine, and the neuter.

Nouns designating males are masculine:—*man, bull, gander*. Those designating females are feminine:—*woman, cow, goose*. Those designating objects or things without sex, or of which the sex is unknown, are neuter:—*field, river, thought, animal, child*.



Nouns of the neuter gender are sometimes, by a figure of speech, used in the masculine or feminine gender. We say of the sun, *he* is setting; and of a ship, *she* sails well.

The feminine gender is distinguished from the masculine in three different modes, viz.

### 1. By different words :

MASCULINE.	FEMININE.	MASCULINE.	FEMININE.
Bachelor,	Maid.	Lad,	Lass.
Boy,	Girl.	Nephew,	Niece.
Brother,	Sister.	Sloven,	Slut.
Drake,	Duck.	Uncle,	Aunt.
Friar,	Nun.	Wizard,	Witch.

### 2. By difference of termination :

Abbot,	Abbess.	Jew,	Jewess.
Actor,	Actress.	Landgrave,	Landgravine.
Executor,	Executrix.	Peer,	Peeress.
Heir,	Heiress.	Shepherd,	Shepherdess.
Hero,	Heroine.	Widower,	Widow.

### 3. By prefixing a word indicative of sex :

A cock-sparrow,	A hen-sparrow.
A man-servant,	A maid-servant.
A he-bear,	A she-bear.
A male-child,	A female-child.

Many nouns are of the masculine and feminine gender, and may be used in either :—*person, scholar, parent, friend.*

**NUMBER.** Nouns have two numbers, the singular and the plural. The singular expresses one object :—*chair, table.* The plural expresses more objects than one :—*chairs, tables.*

The plural number is generally denoted by adding *s* to the singular :—*dove, doves* ; a song, ten *songs*.

But when the singular ends in *x, ss, s, sh, or ch* sounded as in church, the plural is formed by adding *es* :—fox, foxes ; lass, lasses ; rebus, rebuses ; sash, sashes ;

torch, torches ; and sometimes when the singular ends in *o*, as hero, heroes.

In some instances, when the singular ends in *f* or *fe*, those letters are changed into *ves* :—calf, calves ; self, selves ; life, lives.

When the singular ends in *y*, with a consonant before it, the plural is formed by changing *y* into *ies* :—vanity, vanities ; body, bodies. But generally, when *y* has a vowel before it, *s* only is added :—valley, valleys ; delay, delays.

Some nouns are used only in the plural :—ashes, riches, scissors, victuals, politics, mathematics.

Some nouns are used only in the singular :—wheat, hemp, pitch, pride, wine, oil. A portion of these, however, admit the plural termination, when different kinds are spoken of :—The *wines* of France are better than those of Germany.

The following table comprises words which form their plural irregularly :

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.	SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
Man,	Men.	Goose,	Geese.
Woman,	Women.	Mouse,	Mice.
Ox,	Oxen.	Louse,	Lice.
Foot,	Feet.	Die,	Dice.
Tooth,	Teeth.	Penny,	Pence.

The following are from ancient languages :

Axis,	Axes.	Stratum,	Strata.
Antithesis,	Antitheses.	Phenomenon,	Phenomena.
Basis,	Bases.	Arcanum,	Arcana.
Crisis,	Crises.	Genus,	Genera.
Ellipsis,	Ellipses.	Radius,	Radii.
Automaton,	Automata.	Magus,	Magi.

When the pieces of coin are spoken of, *penny* becomes *pennies* in the plural :—The English mint can coin one hundred *pennies* per minute.

**CASE**—Signifies the state of the noun, its relation to other words, or its position in regard to them.

Nouns have three cases ; the Nominative, the Possessive, and the Objective.

The nominative is the original state of the noun, and simply expresses the name of the person or thing which acts, exists, or suffers :—*John* strikes *Peter* ; the *Lord* liveth ; *Thomas* was punished.

The possessive expresses property or fitness, and is generally distinguished by the addition of an apostrophe and the letter *s* :—the *boy's* hat ; *virtue's* reward ; *women's* shoes. But when the plural ends in *s*, and sometimes when the nominative singular ends in *ss*, an apostrophe only is added :—boys' hats ; for righteousness' sake.

The objective case does not differ in spelling from the nominative. A noun is said to be in this case when it follows, or expresses the object of, a verb, or follows a preposition :—*John* strikes *Peter* ; the sun enlightens the *earth* ; fishes live in *water* ; birds fly through the *air*. Here the verbs *strikes* and *enlightens*, and the prepositions *in* and *through*, are said to govern the following nouns ; that is, to place them in the objective case.

To decline a noun is to recite its various cases. English nouns are thus declined :

SINGULAR.			PLURAL.		
<i>Nom.</i>	<i>Poss.</i>	<i>Obj.</i>	<i>Nom.</i>	<i>Poss.</i>	<i>Obj.</i>
George,	George's,	George.	Georges,	Georges',	Georges.
Stone,	Stone's,	Stone.	Stones,	Stones',	Stones.
Lad,	Lad's,	Lad.	Lads,	Lads',	Lads.
Lass,	Lass',	Lass.	Lasses,	Lasses',	Lasses.

## CHAPTER II.

### OF PRONOUNS.

The word pronoun is formed from two Latin words ; *pro*, for, and *nomen*, name or noun.

A pronoun is a word used instead of, or as a substitute for, a noun, when repetition would be inelegant :—The Lord is great, and *he* is also good ; Maria reads well, but *she* cannot write. It is also sometimes used as a substitute for a sentence :—God said, let there be light, and there was light, is not so sublime as *it* would be if expressed in fewer words ; God said, light, be ; and light was.

Pronouns are of two kinds, personal pronouns and adjective pronouns ; and, like nouns, they have person, gender, number, and case.

Personal pronouns are such as are used as substitutes for nouns designating persons, and are *I, thou, he, she, it, who*.

*I* is of the first person, *thou* of the second person, and *he, she, it* of the third person ; *who* is of the first, second, and third persons.

*I* and *thou* are used in the masculine and feminine gender ; *he* is of the masculine gender ; *she* is of the feminine gender ; *it* is of the neuter gender ; *who* is of all genders.

The foregoing pronouns are varied to denote number and case, and are thus declined :

SINGULAR.			PLURAL.		
<i>Nom.</i>	<i>Poss.</i>	<i>Obj.</i>	<i>Nom.</i>	<i>Poss.</i>	<i>Obj.</i>
<i>I,</i>	<i>Mine,</i>	<i>Me.</i>	<i>We,</i>	<i>Ours,</i>	<i>Us.</i>
<i>Thou,</i>	<i>Thine,</i>	<i>Thee.</i>	<i>Ye or you,</i>	<i>Yours,</i>	<i>You.</i>
<i>He,</i>	<i>His,</i>	<i>Him.</i>	<i>They,</i>	<i>Theirs,</i>	<i>Them.</i>
<i>She,</i>	<i>Hers,</i>	<i>Her.</i>	<i>They,</i>	<i>Theirs,</i>	<i>Them.</i>
<i>It,</i>	<i>Its,</i>	<i>It.</i>	<i>They,</i>	<i>Theirs,</i>	<i>Them.</i>
<i>Who,</i>	<i>Whose,</i>	<i>Whom.</i>	<i>Who,</i>	<i>Whose,</i>	<i>Whom.</i>

Instead of *thou*, *you* is invariably used in the second person *singular*, except in solemn style ; we do not say, *thou didst it*, but *you did it*. *Ye* is not used except in solemn style.

Adjective pronouns are words partaking of the nature of pronouns and adjectives ; and all of them are sometimes used as adjectives. They are *this, that, what, which, both, other, none, one*, and perhaps some others.



The foregoing words are pronouns when used as substitutes for nouns, as in the following phrases :—Of wealth and poverty, it may be said, that *both* are temptations; *that* tends to excite pride, *this* discontent. This is *what* I wanted. This is the tree *which* produces no fruit. Ye shall lie down, and *none* shall make you afraid. I have called my mighty *ones*.

The same words are adjectives when used to qualify or define nouns expressed or understood :—*What* man is *that* (man)? *What* tree did you speak of? I will point out *which* tree I spoke of; *that* tree yonder. *This* (thought) is a sublime thought. Who is of *both* numbers.

As many words are used, sometimes as pronouns and sometimes as adjectives, it may often be difficult for the learner to decide to which class they belong. As a guide, he must keep in mind the definition, that “a pronoun is a word used as a substitute for a noun.” According to this definition, *former* and *latter*, in the following sentence, are pronouns. “It was happy for Rome that Fabius continued in the command with Minucius; the *former’s* phlegm was a check upon the *latter’s* vivacity.”

*Who*, *which* and *that* are called Relative Pronouns when they relate to a word or phrase going before, which is thence called the Antecedent :—He, *who* runs, may read; the light *which* shineth in darkness; the man is wise *that* avoids contention. *What* sometimes includes both the antecedent and the relative, and is, at the same time, the object of one verb and the nominative of another :—One man admires *what* displeases another. It is synonymous with *that which*, or *the thing which*. *That*, when used as a relative, is sometimes plural :—let states *that* aim at greatness, &c.

*Which* and *that* were formerly much used as personal pronouns; *who* is now generally used instead of both of them.

*Ever* and *soever* are sometimes added to *who*, *which*, and *what*, making *whoever*, *whosoever*, &c. Each of these compound pronouns may be used as the nominative to two verbs :—*whoever* sins, shall be punished; *whatever*

is done, should be done quickly; but they are seldom used in modern style.

The noun *self*, is sometimes added to the defining adjectives *my, thy, his, her, its, our, your, their*, and *one*, making *myself, ourselves, &c.* *His, its*, and *their* have, however, been changed by use into *him, it*, and *them*, making *himself, itself*, and *themselves*; and these words, when so formed, are used in the nominative as well as the objective case. This is evidently a departure from grammatical propriety, but has been sanctioned by long and invariable usage. All these compound words are used as reciprocal pronouns, and to express emphasis:—I injured *myself*; they injured *themselves*; he *himself* did it; they came *themselves*.

*It* is a word of great universality, and may be used in apposition with any of the pronouns, singular or plural, and with almost every noun in the language:—*it* is I; *it* was you; *it* was she; *it* was they; who was *it*? *It* is the Lord who hath done this; *it* is cold to-day.

*It* sometimes stands as the representative of a sentence, or part of a sentence:—*It* is disagreeable to hear profane language; New-York, *it* is well known, is a large city; here *it* refers to *New-York is a large city*; and the natural order of the words would be, New-York is a large city, *it* is well known.

Some grammarians class the following words among pronouns:—*each, every, either, many, few, all, some, several, such, same, any, &c.* All of these are, however, generally used as adjectives, and they are, perhaps, never used except to define nouns expressed or understood.

Such of the adjective pronouns as are varied to express number and case, are thus declined:

## SINGULAR.

## PLURAL.

<i>Nom.</i>	<i>Poss.</i>	<i>Obj.</i>	<i>Nom.</i>	<i>Poss.</i>	<i>Obj.</i>
Which,	Whose,	Which.	Which,	Whose,	Which.
Whichever,	Whoever,	Whichever.	Whichever,	Whoever,	Whichever.
Other,	Other's,	Other.	Others,	Others',	Others.
One,	One's,	One.	Ones,	Ones',	Ones.



## CHAPTER III.

## OF ADJECTIVES.

ADJECTIVE is from the two Latin words *ad*, to, and *jaceo*, to place, which, united, signify *added to*, or *placed near to*.

An adjective is a word added to, or placed near to, a noun, and qualifies or defines it.

Adjectives are of two kinds ; qualifying adjectives, and defining adjectives.

Qualifying adjectives are such words as express a quality of the object or thing of which the noun is the name ; —a *good* man ; a *beautiful* rose ; a *white* horse. Here the adjectives *good*, *beautiful*, and *white* express qualities of the man, rose, and horse ; and they are qualities which belong to the object named.

Defining adjectives are such words as define, specify limit, or extend the meaning of the nouns to which they belong, or describe circumstances relating to them :—*that* man ; *the* men ; *one* man ; *ten* men ; the *tenth* man ; *few* men ; *many* men ; *all* men ; *which* man ; the *north* and *south* poles ; *my* hat ; *your* hat ; *other* hats ; *every* hat ; *no* hat ; *each* hat ; *a* hat ; *an* apple.

The two kinds of adjectives are not divided from each other by a line plainly and distinctly marked ; and it is therefore fortunate that a mistake, by the learner, in this respect, would lead to no other error.

The spelling of adjectives is not varied to express number, with the exception of *this* and *that*, which are in the plural *these* and *those*.

In order to express different degrees of the same quality, the spelling of adjectives is sometimes varied. This is called the Comparison of adjectives.

Adjectives have a positive state, and a comparative and a superlative degree.

The positive state, is the original state or form of the word :—*great, short*.

The comparative degree increases or lessens the positive in signification :—*greater, shorter*.

The superlative degree increases or lessens the positive to the highest or lowest degree :—*greatest, shortest*.

The comparative is formed by adding *r* or *er* to the positive ; the superlative by adding *st* or *est*.

But most adjectives, of more than one syllable, are compared by placing *more* or *less* before the positive to form the comparative degree, and *most* and *least* before the positive to form the superlative degree.

The following table represents several adjectives compared :

<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Comparative.</i>	<i>Superlative.</i>
White,	Whiter,	Whitest.
Humble,	Humbler,	Humblest.
Great,	Greater,	Greatest.
Small,	Smaller,	Smallest.
Learned,	More learned,	Most learned.
Beautiful,	Less beautiful,	Least beautiful.

The superlative is sometimes formed by placing *most* at the end :—*foremost, uppermost, undermost*.

The following adjectives are compared irregularly :

<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Comparative.</i>	<i>Superlative.</i>
Good,	Better,	Best.
Bad,	Worse,	Worst.
Little,	Less,	Least.
Many,	More,	Most.
Much,	More,	Most.

The termination *ish*, when added to adjectives, expresses quality in a diminished degree :—*green, greenish*. When added to nouns, it converts them into adjectives :—*wasp, waspish* ; *child, childish*.

Many adjectives do not admit of comparison:—*all, round, square, any, ten, twentieth.*

A noun placed before another noun assumes the nature of an adjective:—*sea water, corn field, fish oil.* They are frequently united by a hyphen:—*man-servant, eye-servant, pocket-handkerchief.*

*An*, which loses the *n* when it is followed by a word beginning with a vowel or silent *h*, and *the*, have been, in some grammars, classed by themselves and called articles. They evidently belong to the same class of words as *one* and *this*, and are defining adjectives. Directions have been given when to use, and when to omit them; but the use of these, as well as of other words, is best learned by carefully observing the practice of correct speakers and writers.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### OF VERBS.

Verb is from the Latin *verbum*, the leading signification of which is *word*, but it has also the same signification as *verb* in English. The verb is the most important of all the parts of speech.

A verb is a word which expresses action, being, or suffering; and under the term, action, is included all the operations of the mind and of nature, and the emotions of the heart.

A verb may be known by making sense with either of the personal pronouns before it:—*I run, he thinks, thou lovest, she is, it rains, they live, who is afflicted?*

Verbs are of two kinds, transitive and intransitive. The word *transitive* is derived from the Latin *transeo*, to pass over; it is applicable to whatever passes over; *intransitive* is applicable to whatever does not pass over.

A transitive verb expresses an action performed, or an

influence exerted, by an agent, which action or influence passes to, rests upon, or affects an object :—John strikes Peter. Here *John* is the agent or actor, *strikes* expresses the action, and *Peter* is the object upon which the action rests. The sun *enlightens* the earth ; love *softens* the heart ; the tutor *instructs* the pupils. In these expressions, *enlightens*, *softens*, and *instructs* are transitive verbs, preceded by the names of the agents in the nominative case, and followed by the names of the objects in the objective case.

An intransitive verb expresses simply existence ;—I *am*, he *lives* ; or it expresses the action of an agent, which does not pass over to, nor affect, an object :—I *run*, John *plays*, trees *grow*, his head *aches*.

Many verbs may be used as transitive, and also as intransitive verbs :—Maria *sung* charmingly ; Maria *sung* an Italian song last evening. In the first sentence *sung* has no object ; in the last, it has an object, which is *song*.

A combination of the verb *to be* with the past participle of a transitive verb forms what has been called a passive verb :—*to be loved*, *to be instructed*, she *is loved*, they *are instructed*. Here the name of the object is the nominative of the verb, and the name of the agent, if any is spoken of, follows, and is pointed out by a preposition :—she *is loved* by her companions ; he *is instructed* by the tutor. This is rather a *form* than a *class* of verbs.

Many nouns may be used as verbs :—I *hope* to succeed ; he has no *hope* of success.

There is a small class of verbs of one syllable, called AUXILIARIES, and they are so called because they *help* to conjugate the principal verbs. They are *can*, *may*, *must*, *shall*, *could*, *would*, *should*, and *might*. As they are much used, some observations upon their meaning and use may be of service to the scholar.

*Can* expresses ability :—he *can* write.

*May* expresses possibility or liberty :—the report *may* be true ; you *may* go.

*Must* expresses necessity or obligation :—all men *must* die ; you *must* go.



*Shall* expresses obligation or necessity. It is derived from a German word, the meaning of which is similar to that of *ought*; but it does not express all the meanings of its German parent. It is used only in helping to form future tenses; and its import is different when used in the first, and when used in the second and third persons. In the first person, it denotes what will necessarily happen, or simply foretells:—we *shall* receive a just reward for deeds done in the body; I *shall* see you to-morrow. In the second and third persons, it promises, commands, or threatens:—thou *shalt* inherit the land; ye *shall* do justice and love mercy; he *shall* be punished.

*Could* expresses ability; *might*, permission or possibility; *should*, obligation or necessity; *would*, desire, willingness, and sometimes determination. They are used in conditional and dependent phrases:—I *would* go if I *could*; I *could* walk if you *would* assist me; you *should* never be angry without just cause; in such a case *might* I not tell him my mind frankly? They are used in phrases when a point of time is not specified:—youth *should* venerate age; people often suffer for the want of what they *might* easily obtain; men *would* be much happier if they were always virtuous. They are used to express ideas which are future in regard to a specified or implied point of time, whether past, present, or future. He told me last week that he *would*, &c. go yesterday, to-day, to-morrow; your friend being now present you *could*, *might*, *should* tell him your mind frankly; you have done all you can, as circumstances are, but you *could*, &c. do more after obtaining legal authority. They are used in expressions implying respect, hesitation, and doubt: I *would* recommend;—I *should* think this would be the wiser course; I *could* wish you would do it; *might* I be permitted to advise. If used when no condition is expressed, one is generally implied, or some limitation of the expression, or a dependence of the idea expressed upon some other idea, seems to be present in the mind of the speaker:—I *would* recommend what I have said to your attention; here, if I might be permitted, if you would excuse my presumption, or some such clause, seems to be necessary to complete the sentence; “the politics of courts are so mean, that private people *would* be ashamed to act in the same way;” that is, if in similar or analogous circumstances: I *should* be happy to see you; that is, if you would visit me. *Could*, *would*, and *should*, are, however, sometimes used when no condition is implied:—he *would* go, and we *could* not prevent it; rulers *should* be obeyed.\*

\* See Note A.

This is but an imperfect definition of the auxiliaries. Much of the elegance, precision, and force of composition, depends upon the right use of them ; and the best, if not the only, method of acquiring a just conception of their import is, to observe attentively in what manner they are used by authors distinguished for the correctness of their style, and their adherence to the true English idiom.

In addition to the foregoing, several principal verbs are used as auxiliaries : they are *have*, *do*, *be*, and *will*.

*Have* needs no explanation.

*Do* and *did* are used to render the expression more positive and emphatic, and in negative and interrogative phrases :—*I do love you* ; he *does* not love you ; here I am, for thou *didst* call me ; *do* you intend to go to Boston ? It does not, like other auxiliaries, modify the meaning of the verb.

*Be* is used in conjugating verbs in the passive form ;—to *be loved* ; she *is loved* ; she *was respected*. It is also used in forming tenses ending with the indefinite participle :—he *is* writing ; he has *been* writing.

*Will* expresses determination, promises and foretels, and is used only in helping to form future tenses. Like *shall*, it has a different import when used in the first, and when used in the second and third persons. In the first person, it expresses determination or it promises :—we *will* have our revenge ; I *will* pay you all. In the second and third persons, it foretells :—you *will* repent ; they *will* have a pleasant walk. *Shall* and *will* are often improperly used one for the other ;—“ I *will* drown and nobody *shall* help me,” said a man who fell into the Potomac.

To verbs belong Number, Person, Participle, Mode, Tense, and Conjugation.

Verbs have two NUMBERS, singular and plural ; and three PERSONS, first, second and third, corresponding with the numbers and persons of pronouns and nouns. The termination *st* denotes the second person singular, and *s* the third person singular.

PERSON.	SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1	I love,	We love.
2	Thou lovest,	You love.
3	He loves,	They love.
3	A man writes,	Men write.



**PARTICIPLE.** The participle is a form of the verb, and it is so called because it partakes (participates) of the properties of the verb and the adjective. There are three kinds; the indefinite, by some called the present participle, which always ends in *ing*:—*loving, writing, keeping*; the past, which usually ends in *ed*, but sometimes differently:—*loved, written, kept*; and the compound past:—*having loved, having written, having kept*.

The indefinite and past participles are often used as adjectives. In the following expressions, the words in *Italic* are participles:—the young man, *admiring* Washington, took him for his pattern; the painting was *admired* by all who saw it. In the following expressions, the same words are adjectives:—he was followed by an *admiring* multitude; West's paintings are *admired* productions.

It is sometimes difficult to determine whether the past participle is used as a participle or as an adjective. It must be considered a participle when it expresses action; and an adjective when it does not:—she died *lamented* by all who knew her; words fitly *spoken* are like apples of gold in pictures of silver; read books *written* by the best authors, and you will acquire an elegant and correct style. In these expressions, the words in *Italic* are participles.

**MODE.** Mode is a particular form of the verb, shewing the manner in which action, being, or suffering is represented. A modification of the meaning of a phrase, not produced by an alteration of the form of the verb, but by the use of words belonging to other parts of speech, does not constitute a mode. And in speaking of the *form* of a verb, not only the original word, but the auxiliaries added, are taken into view; *shall-have-loved* constitutes but one verb, and is a modification of the verb *to love*.

There are five modes, the Infinitive, the Indicative, the Potential, the Conditional,\* and the Imperative.†

To express action or being in the abstract, or in an indefinite sense, the infinitive is used:—*to go, to live*. This is the original, unmodified form of the verb.

To declare affirmatively, to deny and to question, the

\* See Note B.

† See Note C.

indicative is used:—he *goes* ; they *will not determine* ; who *has done* this ?

To express possibility, liberty, power, or obligation, the potential is used. The auxiliaries belonging to this mode, and called the signs of it, are *may*, *can*, and *must* : it *may* rain ; he *may* go ; I *can* ride ; he *must* ride ; he *may* have ridden.

To express an idea conditionally, or to indicate that there is a dependence of the idea expressed upon another idea expressed or understood, the conditional is used. The auxiliaries belonging to this mode are *could*, *might*, *should*, and *would* :—I *would* go if I *could* ; he *might* ride if he pleased ; I *should* be glad to see you, if you *should* ever visit New-York.

To command, entreat, or exhort, the imperative is used :—*depart*, ye cursed ; *forgive* our trespasses ; *repent*, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

**TENSE.** Tense is a word signifying time, which has three principal divisions,—present, past, and future. A verb has, therefore, three principal tenses—present, past, and future :

<i>Present.</i>	I praise,	I write.
<i>Past.</i>	I praised,	I wrote.
<i>Future.</i>	I shall or will praise,	I shall or will write.

But in addition to these principal tenses, there are others, which are used when we wish to refer an action or intention to some particular portion or subdivision of past or future time, or to express an idea without reference to time.

The infinitive mode has two tenses, the Indefinite and the Past.

The indefinite tense is used when we wish to express a general idea which has no reference to a particular time, or may be referred to time present, past, or future :—*to be* good is *to be* happy ; *to praise* God was the delight of our first parents in paradise ; *to praise* God is the delight of pious men ; *to praise* God will be for ever the delight of just men made perfect. When it follows another verb, it invariably points to a time subsequent to the time denoted

by that verb :—I intend *to go* ; I intended *to go* ; he will engage *to go*.

The past tense is used when we wish to describe or relate what is passed. It is formed by the help of the auxiliary *to have* and the past participle of the principal verb :—Alfred appears *to have governed* England with justice as well as rigor.

The indicative mode, which is the one most used, has six tenses,—the present, the present past, the past, the prior past, the future, and the future past.

The *present tense* represents an action or event as passing or happening at the precise time in which it is spoken of :—I *love*, he *walks*, the tree *is falling*.

But necessity, convenience, or caprice, has led mankind to make frequent use of the form of the present tense to express ideas not restricted to present time, and to represent past actions as actually passing at the moment of speaking. Thus it is used to express general truths, axioms, and qualities which always exist :—goodness *deserves* esteem ; the whole *is* greater than a part ; virtue *is* amiable at all times. It is used to express a future action already determined on :—I *go* to Boston to-morrow. It is used to express actions of frequent occurrence :—he *rides* often ; she *walks* out every morning. It is used when speaking of authors who are dead, but whose works are extant :—Job *speaks* feelingly of his afflictions. It is used when the time of the action spoken of has relation to a future time pointed out by other words :—when he *arrives*, he will hear the news. It is used in historical and poetical narrations to exhibit past events or transactions to the mind of the reader as though actually present :—the battle *rages* on the hill ; soldier *meets* soldier in direful conflict ; the general *leads* the reserve to the assistance of the main body ; the carnage *is* redoubled ; the enemy *flee* ; and the assailants *remain* masters of the position.

The *present past* is formed by the use of the *present* tense of the auxiliary *have*, and the *past* participle of the principal verb ; and here it may be proper to observe, that the primitive meaning of auxiliaries, in regard both to the action they describe and the time they denote, is not lost when connected with a principal verb, and that a compound tense expresses a compound idea. This



tense represents an action as having passed in a period of time which has some expressed, obvious, or latent connection with, or reference to, the present time :—I *have seen* him to-day ; here the action is finished, but the time mentioned includes the present time. I *have accomplished* my task ; here a reference to the present time is not obvious, but that there is, or may be, such a reference, is shewn by the necessity of using a different tense, when all such reference is excluded—I *accomplished* my task yesterday. The clergy *have* always *claimed* great powers ; here this tense is used because the order of the clergy yet exists ; we cannot say, the Druids *have claimed* great powers, because the Druids no longer exist.

“ The song *has ceased*,  
And young Rinaldo leads the lady forth  
To dance a graceful measure on the turf.”

Here the idea conveyed is, that the song has just ceased.

The past tense is used to represent past actions or events, without reference to any division of past time :—he *wrote* ; they *were writing* ; Alexander *conquered* the Persians ; they *were instructed*.

The point of time from which the past is to be reckoned is not always the moment when a person is speaking, but is often the time, sometimes present and sometimes future, of some action or event spoken of :—if it *were raining*, we should be obliged to seek shelter ; if he *had* wealth, he would be generous ; suppose he *was* here, what would you say to him ? if he *left* town to-morrow, he might arrive at Boston in season ; America, if she *fell*, would fall like the strong man ; if George *had not died* until December next, he *would have been* twenty years old. In the last example, the time denoted by the verb *had died* was previous to the time of speaking ; the time denoted by *would have been* must be subsequent to the time of speaking, but past in relation to December. “ If any person shall assist a prisoner, hereafter committed for any crime, to escape before conviction, he shall suffer the same punishment which the prisoner *would have suffered* if he *had been convicted* of the crime for which he *stood* committed.” Here all the times denoted by the verbs in Italics are future in relation to the date of the law, but past in relation to the time denoted by *shall suffer* ; *had been convicted* refers to a time which is past in relation to *would have suffered* ; *stood* refers to past time, reckoning

from the time denoted by *shall suffer*, and is not, except by other words, restricted to any portion of past time.

The past tense may be used after the verb *to wish*, when present time is referred to :—I wish my friend *had* a lucrative profession. Here *wish*, though in the present tense, points to the future ; and in order to express present time, the mind is recalled to the past. By the same rule, when past time is referred to, the prior past tense is used : I wish I *had written* yesterday. These expressions have some analogy to the structure of the present past, the future past, and other tenses. The union of different tenses, like the mixture of different ingredients, produces a compound partaking of the properties of both, but of the properties of neither in their full extent.

The *prior past* is formed by the use of the *past* of the verb *to have*, and the *past* participle of the principal verb. It is used when speaking of an action which took place *prior* to (*before*) another action also *past* ; and it is sometimes called the *pluperfect*, more than perfect, or more than past : I *had accomplished* my task when he arrived ; he gave directions yesterday, but I *had* already *performed* the duty.

The *future* is used when speaking of an action yet to be performed, or of an event yet to happen. It is formed by the use of one of the auxiliaries *shall* or *will*, and the infinitive of the principal verb :—he *will write* to you to-morrow ; you *shall have* your reward.

The *future past* is formed by the use of the auxiliaries *shall* or *will*, the infinitive of *have*, and the *past* participle of the principal verb. It refers to a time which is *future* in regard to the present time, but *past* in regard to some other time mentioned :—he *will have accomplished* his task by noon to-morrow ; they *will have departed* before you arrive at their house.

The potential mode has two tenses, the present and the past.

The *present tense* is formed by the use of the auxiliaries *may*, *can*, and *must*, and the infinitive of the principal verb :—he *may—can—must go*. Like the present tense of the indicative mode, it has sometimes a future signification :—he *may—can—must go* to-morrow. It has before been remarked that the indefinite of the infinitive, when it follows a verb, points to the future.

The *past tense* is formed by the use of the same auxiliaries, the infinitive of *have*, and the *past* participle of the principal verb :—I *may have written*. It may be used with reference to any portion of past time.

The conditional mode has two tenses, the indefinite and the past.

The *indefinite tense* is formed by the help of the auxiliaries *could*, *might*, *should* and *would*, and the infinitive of the principal verb :—in that event, he *could—might—should—would go*.

These auxiliaries do not seem to contain or import, of themselves, any idea of time, but are made to point, or refer, to time past, present, or future, by the use of other words, or by the tenor and drift of the discourse. *Might* and *should* cannot, however, be used, with the infinitive alone, to refer to past time, except when a time is mentioned or is implied, which is previous to the time to which these words refer. We cannot say, George *might—should write* yesterday ; but we may say, the master told George, last week, that he *might—should write* yesterday.

*Were* is sometimes used for *would be* : “Returning were as tedious as go o’er.” This is a German idiom, and it were better to avoid it.

The *past tense* is formed by the use of the same auxiliaries, the infinitive of *have*, and the *past* participle of the principal verb :—he *could, might, should, would have written*. It may be used with reference to any portion of past time.

*Had* is sometimes used for *would have* :—“Many acts which *had* been blamable in a peaceable government were employed to detect conspiracies.” This also is a German idiom, and is not entitled to favor.

The imperative mode has but one tense, the present ; but one person, the second ; and the form of the verb is the same in both numbers :—John, *study* your lesson ; boys, *study* your lesson.

Some grammarians call this a future tense, for the reason that a command, entreaty, or exhortation has always reference to an action not yet performed.



The past participle, when used in the formation of tenses, represents an action as completed, finished :—he has *written* ; he has *studied* ; they will have *learnt* their lesson by to-morrow noon. The indefinite participle represents continuance of action ; and it is used when we wish to represent an action as continuing and unfinished, at a definite, specified time :—he *is*, at this moment, *writing* the letter ; the farmer *was mowing* when I spoke to him ; he *will be preparing* for a visit at the time you arrive. And it is used, in connection with the past participle, when we wish to represent an action as having had continuance, and ceased, at or before a specified time :—The boy *has been reading* from ten o'clock to the present time ; the troops *had been marching* several hours, when the signal for battle was given ; we *shall have been making* preparations a week before our friends arrive. In the latter class of examples the continuance of the action is denoted by the indefinite participle ; its completion, by the past.

CONJUGATION. The conjugation of a verb is the regular arrangement of its several numbers, persons, modes, and tenses, shewing all the modifications of which it is susceptible.

Some verbs are regular, some irregular, and some defective, in their conjugations.

Regular verbs are those which have *ed* at the end of the past tense and past participle.

Irregular verbs are all those which do not have *ed* at the end of the past tense and past participle.

Defective verbs are those which are not used in all the modes and tenses : such as *ought*, *quoth*, *wot*, *wis*, and the auxiliaries.

There are two forms of conjugation, the active and the passive. Thus, *to love* is, in the active form, *I love*, *I loved*, *I shall love*, &c. ; in the passive form, *I am loved*, *I was loved*, *I shall be loved*, &c.

*Conjugation of Verbs in the Active form.*

To LOVE, (a regular verb.)

## INFINITIVE MODE.

*Indefinite Tense,*

To love.

*Past Tense,*

To have loved.

## PARTICIPLES.

*Indefinite,*

Loving.

*Past,*

Loved.

*Compound past,*

Having loved.

## INDICATIVE MODE.

*Present Tense.**Singular.**Plural.*

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. I love,                             | we love.                 |
| 2. thou lovest, (or you love,)*        | you love, (or ye love.)* |
| 3. he, she, or it loves, (or loveth,)* | they love.               |

*Present past Tense.*

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. I have loved,    | we have loved.   |
| 2. thou hast loved, | you have loved.  |
| 3. he has loved,    | they have loved. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1. I loved,      | we loved.   |
| 2. thou lovedst, | you loved.  |
| 3. he loved,     | they loved. |

*Prior past Tense.*

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. I had loved,      | we had loved.   |
| 2. thou hadst loved, | you had loved.  |
| 3. he had loved,     | they had loved. |

\* It must be remembered that *you* is generally used instead of *thou* for the second person singular; as, *you love*; that, in solemn style, the third person singular ends in *eth*, as, *he loveth*; and that, in that style, *ye* is used instead of *you* in the second person plural; as, *ye love*.

*Future Tense.*

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I shall or will love,    | we shall or will love.   |
| 2. thou shalt or wilt love, | you shall or will love.  |
| 3. he shall or will love,   | they shall or will love. |

*Future past Tense.*

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. I shall have loved,            | we shall have loved.           |
| 2. thou shalt or wilt have loved, | you shall or will have loved.  |
| 3. he shall or will have loved,   | they shall or will have loved. |

## POTENTIAL MODE.

*Present Tense.*

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. I may* love,      | we may love.   |
| 2. thou mayest love, | you may love.  |
| 3. he may love,      | they may love. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. I may* have loved,      | we may have loved.   |
| 2. thou mayest have loved, | you may have loved.  |
| 3. he may have loved,      | they may have loved. |

## CONDITIONAL MODE.

*Indefinite Tense.*

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. I could† love,     | we could love.   |
| 2. thou couldst love, | you could love.  |
| 3. he could love,     | they could love. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. I could† have loved,     | we could have loved.   |
| 2. thou couldst have loved, | you could have loved.  |
| 3. he could have loved,     | they could have loved. |

\* *Can* and *must* are also used in both tenses of the potential mode.

† *Might*, *should*, and *would* are also used in both tenses of the conditional mode. In the several tables or paradigms, the several auxiliaries will be separately used.

## IMPERATIVE MODE.

*Present Tense.*

2. Love, or love thou,                      love, or love you.

In the same manner are conjugated all regular verbs ; and there is no difference between the conjugation of regular and of irregular verbs, except in the mode of forming the past tense and past participle.

---

## To HAVE, (an irregular verb.)

## INFINITIVE MODE.

*Indefinite Tense,*

To have.

*Past Tense,*

To have had.

## PARTICIPLES.

*Indefinite,*

Having.

*Past,*

Had.

*Compound past,*

Having had.

## INDICATIVE MODE.

*Present Tense.**Singular.**Plural.*

1. I have,
2. thou hast,
3. he, she, or it has,

we have.  
ye or you have.  
they have.

*Present past Tense.*

1. I have had,
2. thou hast had,
3. he has had,

we have had.  
you have had.  
they have had.

*Past Tense.*

1. I had,
2. thou hadst,
3. he had,

we had.  
you had.  
they had.

*Prior past Tense.*

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. I had had,      | we had had.   |
| 2. thou hadst had, | you had had.  |
| 3. he had had,     | they had had. |

*Future Tense.*

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I shall or will have,    | we shall or will have.   |
| 2. thou shalt or wilt have, | you shall or will have.  |
| 3. he shall or will have,   | they shall or will have. |

*Future past Tense.*

- |                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. I shall have had,               | we shall have had.           |
| 2. thou shalt or wilt have<br>had, | you shall or will have had.  |
| 3. he shall or will have<br>had,   | they shall or will have had. |

## POTENTIAL MODE.

*Present Tense.*

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. I can have,      | we can have.   |
| 2. thou canst have, | you can have.  |
| 3. he can have,     | they can have. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. I can have had,      | we can have had.   |
| 2. thou canst have had, | you can have had.  |
| 3. he can have had,     | they can have had. |

## CONDITIONAL MODE.

*Indefinite Tense.*

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. I might have,       | we might have.   |
| 2. thou mightest have, | you might have.  |
| 3. he might have,      | they might have. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. I might have had,          | we might have had.   |
| 2. thou mightest have<br>had, | you might have had.  |
| 3. he might have had,         | they might have had. |



## IMPERATIVE MODE

*Present Tense?*

Have, or have thou,                      Have, or have you.

---

 To BE.

The verb *to be* is exceedingly irregular ; and this irregularity is occasioned by the different parts of it having been received from different languages, all once spoken by our ancestors in England, or by their ancestors on the continent of Europe. *Be* is from one source, *am* from another, *was* from another, and *were* from another. These are different words, all having the same meaning, and all, possibly, derived from the same root. This is not the only instance in which an English verb is formed by the union of two or more. From the two verbs, *to go* and *to wend*, is formed the verb *to go*, as it is now used ; *went* being the past of *to wend*. *Wend* is sometimes, however, used in the present tense as well as *go* ; and *to be* has more than one form in the present and past tenses.

In the present tense, *be*, though once used where *am*, &c. now is, has ceased to be used unless preceded by a conjunction ; in the first and second persons singular of the past tense, *were* has also ceased to be used unless preceded by a conjunction ; *if* is therefore prefixed. Those parts of the verb printed in italic characters have ceased to be used, or are used only by the vulgar. See note C.

## INFINITIVE MODE.

*Indefinite Tense,*  
*Past Tense,*

To be.  
To have been.

## PARTICIPLES.

*Indefinite,*  
*Past,*  
*Compound past,*

Being.  
Been.  
Having been.



## INDICATIVE MODE.

*Present Tense*—(first form.)

- |                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. If I be,                | if we be.   |
| 2. if thou (beest, or) be, | if you be.  |
| 3. if he be,               | if they be. |

*Present Tense*—(second form.)

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. I am,     | we are.   |
| 2. thou art, | you are.  |
| 3. he is,    | they are. |

*Present past Tense.*

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. I have been,    | we have been.   |
| 2. thou hast been, | you have been.  |
| 3. he has been,    | they have been. |

*Past Tense*—(first form.)

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. I was,     | (we <i>was</i> .)   |
| 2. thou wast, | (you <i>was</i> .)  |
| 3. he was,    | (they <i>was</i> .) |

*Past Tense*—(second form.)

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. If I were,  | we were.   |
| 2. thou wert,  | you were.  |
| 3. if he were, | they were. |

*Prior past Tense.*

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. I had been,      | we had been.   |
| 2. thou hadst been, | you had been.  |
| 3. he had been,     | they had been. |

*Future Tense.*

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. I shall or will be,    | we shall or will be.   |
| 2. thou shalt or wilt be, | you shall or will be.  |
| 3. he shall or will be,   | they shall or will be. |

*Future past Tense.*

- |                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. I shall have been,               | we shall have been.           |
| 2. thou shalt or wilt have<br>been, | you shall or will have been.  |
| 3. he shall or will have<br>been,   | they shall or will have been. |

## POTENTIAL MODE.

*Present Tense.*

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. I must be,    | we must be.   |
| 2. thou must be, | you must be.  |
| 3. he must be,   | they must be. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. I must have been,    | we must have been.   |
| 2. thou must have been, | you must have been.  |
| 3. he must have been,   | they must have been. |

## CONDITIONAL MODE.

*Indefinite Tense.*

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. I should be,      | we should be.   |
| 2. thou shouldst be, | you should be.  |
| 3. he should be,     | they should be. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. I should have been,         | we should have been.   |
| 2. thou shouldst have<br>been, | you should have been.  |
| 3. he should have been,        | they should have been. |

## IMPERATIVE MODE.

*Present Tense.*

Be, or be thou,	Be, or be you.
-----------------	----------------

---

The following table exhibits the several modes and tenses formed by the use of the indefinite participle. All verbs, except the verb *to be*, may be so conjugated.

## TO WRITE.

## INFINITIVE MODE.

*Indefinite Tense,*  
*Past Tense,*

To be writing.  
To have been writing.

## PARTICIPLES.

*Indefinite,**Past,**Compound past,*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Having been writing.

## INDICATIVE MODE.

*Present Tense.\**

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. I am writing,     | we are writing.   |
| 2. thou art writing, | you are writing.  |
| 3. he is writing,    | they are writing. |

*Present past Tense.*

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. I have been writing,    | we have been writing.   |
| 2. thou hast been writing, | you have been writing.  |
| 3. he has been writing,    | they have been writing. |

*Past Tense.\**

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. I was writing,     | we were writing.   |
| 2. thou wast writing, | you were writing.  |
| 3. he was writing,    | they were writing. |

*Prior past Tense.*

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. I had been writing,      | we had been writing.   |
| 2. thou hadst been writing, | you had been writing.  |
| 3. he had been writing,     | they had been writing. |

*Future Tense.*

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. I shall or will be writing,    | we shall or will be writing.   |
| 2. thou shalt or wilt be writing, | you shall or will be writing.  |
| 3. he shall or will be writing,   | they shall or will be writing. |

*Future past Tense.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. I shall have been writing,               | we shall have been writing.              |
| 2. thou shalt or wilt have<br>been writing, | you shall or will have been<br>writing.  |
| 3. he shall or will have been<br>writing,   | they shall or will have been<br>writing. |

\* *Be* and *were* may be under the present and past tenses, in the same manner as they are used in the conjugation of *to be* in page 31.

## POTENTIAL MODE.

*Present Tense.*

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. I may be writing,       | we may be writing.   |
| 2. thou mayest be writing, | you may be writing.  |
| 3. he may be writing,      | they may be writing. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. I may have been writing,       | we may have been writing.   |
| 2. thou mayest have been writing, | you may have been writing.  |
| 3. he may have been writing,      | they may have been writing. |

## CONDITIONAL MODE.

*Indefinite Tense.*

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. I would be writing,      | we would be writing.   |
| 2. thou wouldst be writing, | you would be writing.  |
| 3. he would be writing,     | they would be writing. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. I would have been writing,      | we would have been writing.   |
| 2. thou wouldst have been writing, | you would have been writing.  |
| 3. he would have been writing,     | they would have been writing. |

---

Verbs are conjugated by the help of *do* and *did* in the following manner :

## INDICATIVE MODE.

*Present Tense.*

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. I do praise,      | we do praise.   |
| 2. thou dost praise, | you do praise.  |
| 3. he does praise,   | they do praise. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. I did praise,      | we did praise.   |
| 2. thou didst praise, | you did praise.  |
| 3. he did praise,     | they did praise. |



## IMPERATIVE MODE.

*Present Tense.*

Do praise, or do thou praise, do praise, or do you praise.

---

Verbs are conjugated negatively, interrogatively, and negatively-interrogatively, in the following manner:

## INDICATIVE MODE.

<i>Tense.</i>	<i>Negatively.</i>	<i>Interrogatively.</i>	<i>Neg.-Interrog.</i>
<i>Present,</i>	I do not praise,	do I praise ?	do I not praise ?
<i>Pres. past,</i>	I have not praised,	have I praised ?	have I not praised ?
<i>Past,</i>	I did not praise,	did I praise ?	did I not praise ?
<i>Prior past,</i>	I had not praised,	had I praised ?	had I not praised ?
<i>Future,</i>	I shall not praise,	shall I praise ?	shall I not praise ?
<i>Fut. past,</i>	I shall not have praised,	shall I have praised ?	shall I not have praised ?

## POTENTIAL MODE.

*Pres.* I can not praise, can I praise ? can I not praise ?  
*Past,* I can not have praised, can I have praised ? can I not have praised ?

## CONDITIONAL MODE.

*Indef.* I could not praise, could I praise ? could I not praise ?  
*Past,* I could not have praised, could I have praised ? could I not have praised ?

Observe, that when the verb is conjugated negatively, the negative adverb, and when it is conjugated interrogatively, the pronoun, is placed next after the first auxiliary. When it is conjugated negatively-interrogatively, the pronoun and negative adverb are placed after the first auxiliary, but it is equally proper to place either first ;—Do I not praise ? do not I praise ?—Could he not have praised ? could not he have praised ?

*Conjugation of a Verb in the Passive form.*

## To LOVE.

## [INFINITIVE MODE.

*Indefinite Tense,*

To be loved.

*Past Tense,*

To have been loved.

## PARTICIPLES.

*Indefinite,*

Being loved.

*Past,*

Been loved.

*Compound past,*

Having been loved.

## INDICATIVE MODE.

*Present Tense.\***Singular.**Plural.*

1. I am loved,

we are loved.

2. thou art loved,

you are loved.

3. he is loved,

they are loved.

*Present past Tense.*

1. I have been loved,

we have been loved.

2. thou hast been loved,

you have been loved.

3. he has been loved,

they have been loved.

*Past Tense.\**

1. I was loved,

we were loved.

2. thou wast loved,

you were loved.

3. he was loved,

they were loved.

*Prior past Tense.*

1. I had been loved,

we had been loved.

2. thou hadst been loved,

you had been loved.

3. he had been loved,

they had been loved.

*Future Tense.*

1. I shall or will be loved, we shall or will be loved.

2. thou shalt or wilt be loved, you shall or will be loved.

3. he shall or will be loved, they shall or will be loved.

\* *Be* and *were* may also be used in the present and past tenses, as in page 31.

*Future past Tense.*

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. I shall have been loved,            | we shall have been loved.           |
| 2. thou shalt or wilt have been loved, | you shall or will have been loved.  |
| 3. he shall or will have been loved,   | they shall or will have been loved. |

## POTENTIAL MODE.

*Present Tense.*

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. I may be loved,       | we may be loved.   |
| 2. thou mayest be loved, | you may be loved.  |
| 3. he may be loved,      | they may be loved. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. I may have been loved,       | we may have been loved.   |
| 2. thou mayest have been loved, | you may have been loved.  |
| 3. he may have been loved,      | they may have been loved. |

## CONDITIONAL MODE.

*Indefinite Tense.*

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. I might be loved,       | we might be loved.   |
| 2. thou mightest be loved, | you might be loved.  |
| 3. he might be loved,      | they might be loved. |

*Past Tense.*

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. I might have been loved,       | we might have been loved.   |
| 2. thou mightest have been loved, | you might have been loved.  |
| 3. he might have been loved,      | they might have been loved. |

## IMPERATIVE MODE.

*Present Tense.*

Be loved, or be thou loved, be loved, or be you loved.

## IRREGULAR VERBS.

The principal parts of the verb are the indefinite of the infinitive, the first person singular of the past tense of the indicative, and the past participle. These parts being known, and the use of the various signs of the modes and tenses, that is to say, the auxiliaries, being also known, the conjugation of all verbs is easy. Of the regular verbs, the past tense of the indicative and the past participle end in *ed*; of the irregular verbs, the past tense and past participle end otherwise and variously.

In the following table, the irregular verbs are divided into three classes. The first class consists of those verbs which, as they appear in the writings of some authors, are regular, and in the writings of others are irregular. The second class consists of all the irregular verbs the use of which is established and uniform. The third consists of those irregular verbs which have various forms in the past tense and past participle. Those forms should be preferred which are regular, or approach the nearest to regularity, unless the prevailing practice is evidently opposed to it.

1. *Verbs which are sometimes used with regular, and sometimes with irregular terminations, in the past tense and past participle.*

<i>Infinitive.</i>	<i>Past Tense.</i>	<i>Participle.</i>
Awake,	awaked, awoke,	awaked.
bend,	bended, bent,	bended, bent.
bereave,	bereaved, bereft,	bereaved, bereft.
burst,	burst, burst,	burst, burst.
catch,	catch, caught,	catch, caught.
chide,	chided, chid,	chided, chidden.
clothe,	clothed, clad,	clothed, clad.
cleave,*	cleaved, clove,	cleaved, cloven, cleft.
creep,	creep, crept,	creep, crept.
crow,	crow, crew,	crow.

\* To split.



<i>Infinitive.</i>	<i>Past Tense.</i>	<i>Participle.</i>
dare,	dared, durst,	dared.
dig,	digged, dug,	digged, dug.
deal,	dealed, dealt,	dealed, dealt.
dwel,	dwelled, dwelt,	dwelled, dwelt.
gild,	gilded, gilt,	gilded, gilt.
gird,	girded, girt,	girded, girt.
grave,	graved,	graved, graven.
hang,	hanged, hung,	hanged, hung.
hear,	heared, heard,	heared, heard.
hew,	hewed,	hewed, hewn.
knit,	knitted, knit,†	knitted, knit.
learn,	learned, learnt,	learned, learnt.
load,	loaded,	loaded, laden.
mow,	mowed,	mowed, mown.
rive,	rived,	rived, riven.
saw,	sawed,	sawed, sawn.
shape,	shaped,	shaped, shapen.
shave,	shaved,	shaved, shaven.
shine,	shined, shone,	shined, shone.
slit,	slitted, slit,	slitted, slit.
sow,	sowed,	sowed, sown.
spill,	spilled, spilt,	spilled, spilt.
sweat,	sweated, swet,	sweated, swet.
swell,	swelled,	swelled, swollen.
thrive,	thrived, throve,	thrived, thriven.
wax,	waxed,	waxed, waxen.
work,	worked, wrought,	worked, wrought.

2. *Irregular verbs, the use of which, in the forms here exhibited, is established and uniform.*

<i>Infinitive.</i>	<i>Past Tense.</i>	<i>Participle.</i>	<i>Infinitive.</i>	<i>Past Tense.</i>	<i>Participle.</i>
Abide,*	abode,	abode.	bind,	bound,	bound.
arise,	arose,	arisen.	bleed,	bled,	bled.
be,	was,	been.	blow,	blew,	blown.
bear,†	bare,	born.	break,	broke,	broken.
bear,‡	bore,	borne.	breed,	bred,	bred.
begin,	began,	begun.	bring,	brought,	brought.
beseech,	besought,	besought.	build,	built,	built.

\* To reside. *Abide*, signifying to sustain or obey, is regular.

† To bring forth.

‡ To carry.

<i>Infinitive.</i>	<i>Past Tense.</i>	<i>Participle.</i>	<i>Infinitive.</i>	<i>Past Tense.</i>	<i>Participle.</i>
buy,	bought,	bought.	pay,	paid,	paid.
cast,	cast,	cast.	put,	put,	put.
choose,	chose,	chosen.	read,	read,	read.
cling,	clung,	clung.	rend,	rent,	rent.
come,	came,	come.	rid,	rid,	rid.
cost,	cost,	cost.	rise,	rose,	risen.
cut,	cut,	cut.	run,	ran,	run.
do,	did,	done.	say,	said,	said.
draw,	drew,	drawn.	see,	saw,	seen.
drive,	drove,	driven.	seek,	sought,	sought.
drink,	drank,	drunk.	sell,	sold,	sold.
eat,	ate,	eaten.	send,	sent,	sent.
fall,	fell,	fallen.	set,	set,	set.
feed,	fed,	fed.	shake,	shook,	shaken.
feel,	felt,	felt.	shear,	sheared,	shorn.
fight,	fought,	fought.	shed,	shed,	shed.
find,	found,	found.	show,	showed,	shown.
flee,	fled,	fled.	shoe,	shod,	shod.
fling,	flung,	flung.	shoot,	shot,	shot.
fly,	flew,	flown.	shrink,	shrunk,	shrunk.
forget,	forgot,	forgotten.	shred,	shred,	shred.
forsake,	forsook,	forsaken.	shut,	shut,	shut.
freeze,	froze,	frozen.	sit,	sat,	sat.
give,	gave,	given.	slay,	slew,	slain.
go,	went,	gone.	sleep,	slept,	slept.
grind,	ground,	ground.	slide,	slid,	slidden.
have,	had,	had.	sling,	slung,	slung.
hit,	hit,	hit.	slink,	slunk,	slunk.
hurt,	hurt,	hurt.	smite,	smote,	smitten.
keep,	kept,	kept.	speak,	spoke,	spoken.
know,	knew,	known.	speed,	sped,	sped.
lade,	laded.	laden.	spend,	spent,	spent.
lay,	laid,	laid.	spin,	spun,	spun.
lead,	led,	led.	split,	split,	split.
leave,	left,	left.	spread,	spread,	spread.
lend,	lent,	lent.	stand,	stood,	stood.
let,	let,	let.	steal,	stole,	stolen.
lie,*	lay,	lain.	stick,	stuck,	stuck.
lose,	lost,	lost.	sting,	stung,	stung.
make,	made,	made.	stink,	stunk,	stunk.
meet,	met,	met.	string,	strung,	strung.

\* To lie down.

<i>Infinitive.</i>	<i>Past Tense.</i>	<i>Participle.</i>	<i>Infinitive.</i>	<i>Past Tense.</i>	<i>Participle.</i>
strive,	strove,	striven.	thrust,	thrust,	thrust.
swear,	swore,	sworn.	tread,	trod,	trodden.
swing,	swung,	swung.	wear,	wore,	worn.
take,	took,	taken.	weave,	wove,	woven.
teach,	taught,	taught.	weep,	wept,	wept.
tear,	tore,	torn.	win,	won,	won.
tell,	told,	told.	wind,	wound,	wound.
think,	thought,	thought.	wring,	wrung,	wrung.
throw,	threw,	thrown.	write,	wrote,	written.

3. *Irregular verbs which have various forms in the past tense, or past participle, or both. Those forms which are least used are printed in italic characters.*

<i>Infinitive.</i>	<i>Past Tense.</i>	<i>Participle.</i>
Beat,	beat,	beaten, <i>beat.</i>
bid,	bade, <i>bid,</i>	bidden, <i>bid.</i>
bite,	bit,	bitten, <i>bit.</i>
get,	got,	gotten, <i>got.</i>
grow,	<i>grewed</i> , grew,	grown.
hide,	hid,	hidden, <i>hid.</i>
hold,	held,	<i>holden</i> , held.
ride,	rode,	ridden, <i>rode.</i>
ring,	rang, <i>rung,</i>	rung.
sing,	sang, <i>sung,</i>	sung.
sink,	<i>sank</i> , sunk,	sunk.
spit,	<i>spat</i> , spit,	<i>spitten</i> , spit.
spring,	sprang, <i>sprung,</i>	sprung.
stride,	strode, <i>strid,</i>	stridden.
strike,	struck,	<i>stricken</i> , struck.
swim,	swam, <i>swum,</i>	swum.

## CHAPTER V.

### OF ADVERBS.

The word Adverb is formed from two Latin words, *ad*, to, and *verbum*, verb.

An adverb is a word joined to a verb to modify the meaning it conveys, or to express some circumstance respecting it. It may also be used to modify the meaning of an adjective or another adverb :—He reads *well* ; a *truly* good man ; he writes *often*, and *very* *correctly*.

Adverbs may be divided into classes :

1. Of Number :—once, twice, thrice, &c.
2. Of Order :—first, secondly, lastly, primarily, &c.
3. Of Place :—here, there, where, somewhere, whither, upward, whence, whithersoever, &c.
4. Of Time :—now, to-day, already, hitherto, hereafter, often, instantly, daily, ever, since, again, &c.
5. Of Quantity :—much, enough, sufficiently, &c.
6. Of Manner or Quality :—wisely, foolishly, slowly, justly, &c. Adjectives of this kind may be formed by adding the termination *ly* to adjectives :—hot, hotly ; clean, cleanly ; sorrowful, sorrowfully.
7. Of Doubt :—perhaps, peradventure, possibly, perchance, &c.
8. Of Affirmation :—verily, truly, yea, yes, indeed, &c.
9. Of Negation :—nay, no, not, never, by no means, not at all, &c.
10. Of Interrogation :—how, why, wherefore, &c.
11. Of Comparison :—more, most, better, best, less, least, very, almost, &c.

Many adverbs are formed by the addition of a preposition to the adverbs *here*, *there*, *where* :—hereof, hereto, herein, herewith ; thereby, therefore ; whereupon.

A preposition placed after a verb, and having no object expressed nor understood, modifies the meaning of the verb, and becomes an adverb :—to ride *about* ; to pass *on* ; to take *off*, &c. In the English language there are many words which belong sometimes to one part of speech, and sometimes to another.

Such combinations of words as, by no means, not at



all, nevertheless, at present, &c., may be called compound adverbs.

Some adverbs are compared like adjectives:—soon, sooner, soonest. Those ending in *ly* are compared by *more* and *most*:—wisely, more wisely, most wisely.

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## CHAPTER VI

### OF PREPOSITIONS.

The word Preposition is formed from the Latin words *præ*, before, and *positio*, position, from *pono*, to place.

Prepositions are generally placed before nouns and pronouns, and shew the relation or connection between actions or qualities and objects, or between different objects; in other words, between verbs or adjectives and nouns or pronouns, or between different nouns or pronouns:—he went *from* Boston *to* Philadelphia; she is superior *to* him; this harbor is convenient *for* shipping; to write *with* a pen; they spoke *to* me; a mountain *of* salt; the way *of* a ship *on* the sea. The force of the preposition rests on the noun or pronoun which it is said to govern.

Verbs are often compounded of a preposition and a verb:—to *uphold*, to *invest*, to *overlook*; and this connection sometimes gives a new sense to the verb:—to *understand*, to *forgive*. But the preposition is more frequently placed after the verb, and the meaning of the verb is then even more variant from its original meaning:—to cast *up* an account, to fall *on*, to give *over*. A preposition so placed, if not considered a part of the verb, as it is when placed before it, must be treated as an adverb qualifying the verb.

#### *A list of the principal Prepositions.*

Of.	for.	at.	on or upon.
to.	by.	into.	between.
over.	above.	from.	beneath.
under.	below.	down.	before.

up.	through.	about.	behind.
with.	in.	within.	besides.
after.	among.	without.	beyond.
against.	amidst.	around.	towards.

## CHAPTER VII.

### OF CONJUNCTIONS.

The word Conjunction is derived from the Latin word *conjungo*, to join together.

A conjunction is a word used to join or connect sentences or words.

Some conjunctions are called *copulative*, and some *disjunctive*, conjunctions.

The copulative conjunction connects words and sentences where no opposition or contrariety of meaning is intended to be expressed :—my brother *and* myself study Latin ; the good man labours to promote the happiness of his fellow beings, *and* they, on their part, ought to reward by revering him ; he is happy *because* he is good.

The disjunctive conjunction connects words and sentences, but shows an opposition or contrariety of meaning :—my brother studies Latin, *but* I do not ; the good man labors to promote the happiness of his fellow beings, *but* the unrighteous man opposes them ; though he appears to be happy, *yet* he is not.

*A list of the principal Conjunctions.*

#### COPULATIVE.

And.	if.	that.	both.
then.	since.	for.	because.
therefore.	wherefore.		

## DISJUNCTIVE.

But.	or.	nor.	as.
than.	lest.	though.	unless.
either.	neither.	yet:	notwithstanding.

Several words are used, sometimes as a conjunction, sometimes as an adverb, and sometimes as a preposition.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### OF INTERJECTIONS.

The word Interjection is derived from the Latin word *interjicio*, to throw between.

Words or sounds uttered under the operation of sudden or violent emotion, whether pleasing or painful, are called Interjections. Horne Tooke thinks they are not worthy to be considered a part of speech, and says that the barking of a dog is an interjection. Some of the words so denominated by grammarians, are; ah! alas! O! oh! pish! foh! pah! bah! fie! wonderful! O dear! ha! ha! ha!

Lo! behold! hark! &c. are verbs in the imperative mode.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### ELLIPSIS.

In many instances, in speaking and composition, the different parts of speech are not expressed nor written, and it is necessary that they should be supplied in order

to render the sentence grammatically complete. Parts of sentences, equally necessary to be supplied for the same purpose, are also frequently omitted. This omission of words, and parts of sentences, is called Ellipsis. It is resorted to in order to avoid the unpleasant repetition of words.

In the following sentences, the words printed in Roman characters are all which are necessary to be used in writing or speaking. The words printed in Italic characters, and also enclosed in parentheses, must be supplied or understood in order to render the sentence grammatically complete.

### *Ellipsis of the Noun.*

A kind (*husband*), tender (*husband*), and faithful husband.

Virtue supports in adversity and (*virtue*) moderates in prosperity.

One man admires one thing, another (*man*), another (*thing*).

He went to St. Paul's (*church*). Whose book is this (*book*)? It is Peter's (*book*).

In all cases, repeating the words renders the sentence emphatic. "Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God," is more emphatic than, Christ the power and wisdom of God.

### *Ellipsis of the Pronoun.*

I love (*him*) and (*I*) fear him. This is the man (*whom*) they love. These are the goods (*which*) they bought.

### *Ellipsis of the Adjective.*

My father, (*my*) brother, (*my*) sisters and (*my*) mother. The men, (*the*) women and (*the*) children. A delightful garden and (*a delightful*) orchard. Washington was a great scholar, (*a great*) statesman, and (*a great*) general.



*Ellipsis of the Verb.*

The man was old, and (*was*) crafty. He went to Boston and (*he went*) to Salem. She dislikes him and (*she dislikes*) me.

Do thy duty, my son, and if thou (*shouldst*) prosper, be not elated ; and if thou (*shouldst*) be afflicted, repine not. Whatever (*may*) be his object, he always succeeds. His opinion, whatever it (*may*) be, should be known. I will wait until my change (*shall*) come. I have seen and (*I have*) heard him frequently. He will lose his estate and (*he will*) incur reproach. If he (*shall*) ask a fish, will ye give him a serpent ?

He regards his word, but thou dost not (*regard it*). They did not obey, so strictly as they ought (*to have obeyed*), the commands of their parents.

*Ellipsis of the Participle.*

(*Being*) admired and applauded, he became vain. He lived (*being*) admired, and died (*being*) respected by all who knew him.

*Ellipsis of the Adverb.*

He teaches his scholars to spell (*correctly*), read (*correctly*), and write correctly. Thrice I went and (*thrice I*) offered my service. He preached (*daily*) and prayed daily.

*Ellipsis of the Preposition.*

He travelled through New-York and (*through*) Vermont. He spoke to every man and (*to*) every woman there. He gave (*to*) me that book. My brother is like (*to or unto*) him. (*On*) this day. (*In the*) next month. He walked ( ) a mile. The Lord do that which seemeth (*to*) him good.

*Ellipsis of the Conjunction.*

God is to be loved for his truth, (*and*) goodness, (*and*) mercy and grace. If I should go, and (*if*) he should not. Though I love him, (*yet*) I do not flatter him.

In some instances, when the conjunction *if* is omitted, the auxiliary is placed before the pronoun :—had I known this before ; were I able, I would go with you ; that is, if I had known ; if I were able.

*Ellipsis of the sign of the Infinitive, TO.*

*To*, the sign of the infinitive, is omitted before the verbs which follow bid, dare, feel, hear, let, make, need, see, and some others :—he bids me (*to*) go ; they heard him (*to*) speak ; you need not (*to*) write.

When two or more verbs in the infinitive mode are used in succession, it is omitted before all but the first :—He determined to see him, (*to*) hear him, and (*to*) speak to him.

*Ellipsis of part of a Sentence.*

(*He being*) conscious of his own weight and importance, the aid of others was not solicited.

Folly meets with success in this world, but it is true, notwithstanding (*that folly meets with success in this world*), that it labors under disadvantages.

He will often argue that if this part of our trade were well cultivated, we should gain from one nation ; and if another (*part of our trade were well cultivated, we should gain*) from another (*nation*).

The ellipsis or omission of words is very common in all languages, and to this habit, prevailing most in ordinary discourse, may doubtless be attributed the formation of such phrases as *at first, at best, as it were, &c.*, which cannot be resolved or parsed by any of the rules of syntax.

## PART II.

## SYNTAX.

SYNTAX treats of sentences ; or, in other terms, of the agreement, government, and arrangement of the words composing a sentence.

Words are said to agree with each other, when, in consequence of some relation between them, they are used in the same number, person, and gender.

One word is said to govern another, when the governing word requires the word governed to be in a certain case.

In many languages, agreement and government are denoted by the mode in which words are spelled. The English language presents but few instances in which agreement and government are so denoted.

The number and person of a verb can, in most cases, be ascertained only by regarding the nominative ; the nominative and objective cases of nouns can only be ascertained by regarding their position and the sense of the passage.

Writing is synthesis or composition ; by which is meant putting several words together, in a proper order, and forming a sentence. Parsing is analysis or resolution ; by which is meant taking a sentence to pieces, and describing each word individually, by stating to what part of speech it belongs, what word it agrees with, by what word it is governed, &c.

Every language has certain rules according to which it must be written and spoken ; and by the same rules, so far as they go, what is written and spoken must be parsed.

The English language, having but little inflection, has need of but few rules. The noun refuses to change its dress at the command of every set of verbs or prepositions ; the adjective does not submit to wear the livery of the noun ; and the verb disdains to be governed by a conjunction.

## RULE I.

All nouns and pronouns, not governed by a transitive verb, participle, or preposition, are in the nominative case.

*Note 1.* This rule includes all nouns and pronouns which designate, or stand for, the agents performing the actions described by the verb :—*he* walks ; the *horse* draws the chaise ; *Bonaparte* commanded the army ; the *sun* shines.

*Note 2.* Nouns and pronouns which follow an intransitive verb or its participle, are in the nominative case, unless governed by a preposition understood, or by a preceding transitive verb :—I am *he* ; they are the *men* ; Tom struts a *soldier* ; a calf becomes an *ox* ; she looks a *goddess*, and she moves a *queen* ; Bonaparte being an able *general*, the kings of Europe dared not oppose him.

*Note 3.* When an address is made to a person, the noun or pronoun is in the nominative case :—O *thou*, who rulest the heavens ! O *house* of Israel ; it must be so, *Plato*, thou reasonest well ; I am, *sir*, your obedient servant.

*Note 4.* A noun or pronoun joined with a participle, and standing independent of the rest of the sentence, is in the nominative case :—*shame* being lost, all virtue is lost ; that *question* having been decided, we need not again consider it ; *Pontius Pilate* being governor of Judea, the word of God came unto John ; “ I have, notwithstanding this *discouragement*, attempted a dictionary of the English language.” This is called the nominative case independent.

*Note 5.* Nouns and pronouns following verbs in the passive form, when no preposition intervenes, are in the nominative case :—the child was named *Thomas* ; Wellington was created a *duke* ; Washington was chosen *president* ; the general was saluted *emperor*.

*Note 6.* Nouns of measure or dimension, when followed by an adjective, are in the nominative case :—their



march was arrested by a wall ten *feet* high ; this street is twenty *yards* wide ; a town six *miles* square ; water ten *fathoms* deep.

*Note 7.* That the objective case is placed after some interjections may be stated as an exception to this rule :—*Ah me ; Oh me, &c.*

*Note 8.* The noun or pronoun, which is the nominative to a verb, is called the Agent.

## RULE II.

A verb must agree with its nominative in number and person.

**EXAMPLES :—***I love, thou lovest, he loves ; we love, you love, they love.* Here each of the pronouns is the nominative to the following verb, which, according to the rule, agrees with its nominative. The spelling of the verb, in the second and third persons singular, is changed to denote this agreement ; but when it is not changed, the verb is, nevertheless, said to be in the same number and person as the nominative. When the nominative is a noun, the rule is the same :—a man *loves* ; men *love*.

*Note 1.* When a pronoun and a noun, or two or more nouns, stand together, being identical in meaning or representing the same thing, the single idea or thing signified prevails over the several names of the thing, and the verb must be in the singular number :—*thou, traitor, deservest death ; Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Saviour of the world, is* entitled to the veneration of men.

*Note 2.* When two or more nouns or pronouns, representing different things, are connected by a copulative conjunction, the verb must be in the plural number :—*Russia, France, and England are* powerful nations.

*Note 3.* When two or more nouns or pronouns, each in the singular number, are connected by a disjunctive

conjunction, the verb must be in the singular :—Neither *Alexander*, nor *Cæsar*, nor *Bonaparte*, *was* happy. When either of the nominatives is plural, the verb must be plural :—neither *poverty* nor *riches were* injurious to him ; but in this case the plural noun or pronoun should be placed next to the verb.

*Note 4.* It is a general rule that the three persons take precedence as they are numbered ; when, therefore, singular nouns or pronouns, of different persons, are connected by *copulative* conjunctions, the verb, which must be plural, agrees in *person* with the nominative of highest rank :—James, and thou, and I *are* attached to *our* country ; thou and he *are* to share it between *you*. In the first example *are* is of the first person ; in the last, of the second. When nouns or pronouns of different persons are connected by a *disjunctive* conjunction, the verb agrees with the nominative placed nearest to it :—I or thou *art* in fault ; thou or I *am* in fault ; I, or thou, or he *is* the author of it.

*Note 5.* When a noun of multitude is used, the verb may be in either the singular or plural number ; but in some cases one is more proper than the other. If the expression conveys the idea of plurality, the plural must be used ; if of unity, the singular must be used :—the multitude *was* large ; here the multitude is considered as one body :—the multitude *pursue* pleasure as *their* chief good ; here the individuals composing the multitude are referred to :—this people *has* become a great nation ; my people *do* not consider, *they have* not known me. When a noun of multitude is preceded by *a*, *this*, *every*, or any other word distinctly importing one or unity, the verb is generally in the singular number :—*this* company *is* large ; *every* political party *pursues* its own interests.

*Note 6.* In many expressions, the noun which precedes, and that which follows, the verb *to be*, are in the nominative. The verb may then agree in number with either ; but taste and usage must be consulted in determining with which it should agree. It should generally agree with that nominative which is nearest, and with the first when both are equally near :—his meat *was* locusts and wild honey ; the wages of sin *is* death ; words *are* wind.

*Note 7.* The infinitive mode, a part of a sentence, or several parts of a sentence, may be the nominative to a verb :—to enjoy *is* to obey ; a desire to excel others in learning *is* commendable ; to be temperate in eating and drinking, to use exercise in the open air, and to preserve the mind free from tumultuous emotions, *contribute* essentially to the preservation of health.

*Note 8.* The verb is generally placed next after its nominative ; but in the following, and other similar expressions, it is correctly placed before it :—*read* thou ; *confidest* thou in me ? long *live* the king ! The nominative is also frequently placed after the verb in poetry, and in what is called the inverted style :—“ Now *came* still evening on ; ” “ out *flew* millions of flaming swords ; ” “ whom ye ignorantly worship, him *declare* I unto you.”

*Note 9.* The verb is often separated from its nominative by one or more clauses of a sentence commencing with a relative pronoun :—the *man* who transgresses, *shall* be punished ; *Washington*, who led our armies to victory, who guided our councils in peace, and whom the world so justly admires, *was* good as well as great ;—here *Washington* is the nominative to *was*, *who* to *guided*, and *world* to *admires* ; *whom* is in the objective case, and is governed by *admires*.

*Note 10.* The verb is often separated from the nominative when the latter is qualified by an adjective :—*he*, conscious of his innocence, *disdained* to reply. A different arrangement would be equally proper :—conscious of his innocence, he *disdained* to reply.

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### RULE III.

Pronouns agree with the nouns for which they stand in gender and number ; and relative pronouns agree with their antecedents in gender, number, and person.

EXAMPLES :—the *king* was crowned, but *he* did not reign



long; the *queen* left the kingdom, but *she* returned soon after; grass, when *it* is cut and dried, becomes hay; the wolf and the moose were once common in our forests, but *they* are now seldom seen.

*I*, who speak from experience; *thou*, who lovest wisdom; *you*, who love wisdom; the *stone which* the builders refused.

*Note 1.* The pronoun is not always of the same *person* as the noun for which it stands, especially when other words intervene:—*I*, who give you this order, am the *general* who commands to-day; *thou*, who givest this order, art the *general* who commands to-day. In both of these examples, *general* is in the third person, although the pronouns, *I* and *thou*, are in the first and second.

*Note 2.* When a relative pronoun is used in asking a question, the noun or pronoun expressing the answer must be in the same case:—*who* gave you that book? *he* gave it to me. Of *whom* did he buy it? of the *bookseller*. *Whose* hat is this? It is *Peter's*. *Whom* do you see? *him* of whom we spoke; that is, supplying the ellipsis, I see *him* of whom we spoke.

*Note 3.* A pronoun sometimes stands as the representative of a part of a sentence:—his friend bore the abuse very patiently, *which* served to increase his rudeness; bodies, which have no taste, and no power of affecting the skin, may, notwithstanding *this*, act upon organs which are more delicate.

*Note 4.* When the relative is in the objective case, it is always placed before the verb and its nominative:—he *whom* you seek; the tree *which* the lightning struck; *who*, *that* God loves, can complain of affliction?

## RULE IV.

Transitive verbs govern the objective case.

EXAMPLES:—he loves *her*; they struck *him*; do you credit the *report*? the stone weighs a hundred *pounds*.



*Note 1.* Transitive verbs sometimes govern two objective words:—he taught his *pupils* the *art* of reasoning; the ring cost the *purchaser* an *eagle*; they called *him*, *John*; they appointed *him* *captain*; all Europe feared *Bonaparte*, the *emperor* of the French and *king* of Italy. In these and similar cases, there is no ellipsis of the verb which governs the first noun. In such expressions as the following, there is an ellipsis, or omission, of the verb before each noun:—Charles the fifth governed Spain, Holland, and Germany. It is not usual in parsing to supply the verb, but to consider each noun as governed by the verb expressed.

*Note 2.* Transitive verbs sometimes govern two nouns or pronouns which have the verb *to be*, and some other intransitive verbs, in the infinitive mode, between them:—believe that *man* to be your *friend*, who adheres to you in adversity; did you suppose *him* to be *me*? they wished *him* to continue their *friend*. This remark applies also to the interrogative sentences where the relative is placed before the verb:—*whom* did you suppose *me* to be?

*Note 3.* The same verb is sometimes transitive and sometimes intransitive:—to *live* righteously; here *live* is intransitive and has no object after it:—to *live* a life of virtue; here *live* is transitive and governs *life*:—the forest *extends* to the western boundary of the state; the prisoner *extended* his *arms*, crying for mercy.

*Note 4.* As a sentence, or part of a sentence, is sometimes the nominative of a verb, so it is sometimes the object of a transitive verb:—he declined *going to Boston*; suppose then *the world we live in* to have had a creator; I admit all, except *speaking the words set forth in the first part of the indictment*. It sometimes also follows a noun in the possessive case:—he was averse to the nation's *involving itself in war*; he can have no notion of a person's *possessing so many different accomplishments*.

*Note 5.* The objective case is usually placed after the verb which governs it; but the relative pronoun, when in that case, is placed before it:—choose ye, this day, *whom* ye will serve; the events, *which* I have seen, I will describe. It is often placed before it in the inverted style:—

she, with extended arms, his *aid* implores ; *whom* ye ignorantly worship, *him* declare I unto you.

*Note 6.* Transitive verbs in the passive form do not govern the objective case.

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## RULE V.

Indefinite and compound participles of transitive verbs govern the objective case.

**EXAMPLES :—**As soon as the traveller arrived, his friends were seen embracing *him* and welcoming *him* home ; they found him transgressing the *laws* ; having conquered the *enemy*, he returned home.

*Note 1.* Participles generally belong to some noun or pronoun expressed or understood ; but they are sometimes used indefinitely, and without being thus connected :—It is not possible to act otherwise, *considering* the weakness of our nature ; and he said unto them, hinder me not, *seeing* the Lord hath prospered my way ; generally *speaking*, the heir at law is not bound by the intention of the testator ; *granting* this to be true, it does not affect the case ; I speak *concerning* Christ and the church.

*Note 2.* By placing some of the defining adjectives before, and the preposition *of* after, an indefinite participle, the participle is changed into a noun :—*the repenting of* sinners gives joy in heaven ; *a withholding of* assistance ; *this rejoicing of* his people was grateful to the king.

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## RULE VI.

Prepositions govern the objective case.

**EXAMPLES :—**he gave the letter *to me* ; I took the book *from them* ; they travelled *with us* ; he went *from* New-York *to* Boston *by* land.

*Note 1.* The preposition is generally placed before the noun or pronoun which it governs; but sometimes it is placed after it, and at a distance:—*Whom* will you give it to? the man *whom* I travelled *with* was agreeable. This arrangement is admissible in conversation; but in writing it would be more elegant to place the words in their natural order, thus:—*to whom* will you give it? *with whom* I travelled. The following is another example of the separation of a preposition from the noun which it governs:—he departed *for*, but never arrived *at*, the East Indies. This, though grammatical, is not elegant.

*Note 2.* Prepositions are often omitted:—give it me; that is, *to* me: buy him some books; that is, *for* him: he went to Boston, yesterday; that is, *on* yesterday: I will wait all the week; that is, *through* all the week: a horse can run a mile in three minutes; that is, *through* or *over* the extent of a mile. When the noun *home* follows verbs of motion, a preposition is seldom used, but must be understood.

*Note 3.* Prepositions sometimes govern parts of sentences:—he accomplished his purpose *BY* *observing these rules and precautions*; he was prevented *FROM* *conquering the Russian empire*.

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## RULE VII.

Adjectives generally belong to nouns or pronouns which they qualify or define, and should be placed near to them.

EXAMPLES:—*a strong* man; *a beautiful* woman; he is *unfit* to be the ruler of *a free* people; *this* prospect is *delightful* beyond expression.

*Note 1.* The adjective is usually placed before the noun to which it belongs; but it may be placed after it,

1. When several adjectives belong to one noun:—a prince *discreet, just, and benevolent*.

2. When something depends on the adjective :—feed me with food *convenient* for me.

3. When an adjective is used as a title, or is emphatical :—Alexander the *great* ; goodness *infinite*.

4. When the adjective is preceded by an adverb :—a boy *regularly* studious.

5. When the action of a transitive verb produces the quality described :—vanity renders its possessor *despicable*.

*Note 2.* Adjectives are sometimes used, like adverbs, to modify verbs, especially in poetry :—drink *deep* or taste not the Pierrian spring ; heaven opened *wide* her ever during gate.

*Note 3.* Adjectives are used to qualify verbs in the infinitive mode, and parts of sentences :—*to see* is *pleasant* ; *to be a coward* is *disgraceful* ; *agreeable* to this we read of names being blotted out of God's book ; he may have intended to shew me the paper ; but *that he did not do so*, is *certain*.

*Note 4.* Some adjectives are used to qualify others :—a *green silk* bonnett ; a *red hot Russia iron* bar. In the last example, the adjective *a* defines the noun *bar*, *red* qualifies *hot*, *Russia* qualifies or defines *iron* ; and *iron* qualifies *bar*.

*Note 5.* Adjectives are often used indefinitely, no noun being expressed, and no particular noun being understood :—*many* are called, but *few* chosen ; none but the *brave* deserve the *fair*. When adjectives are so used, the verb is generally plural.

*Note 6.* They are often used in a still more indefinite manner, especially when they follow verbs in the infinitive mode :—*to be good* is *to be happy* ; *to be blind* is calamitous ; *to live happy* is the desire of all men.

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## RULE VIII.

Adverbs belong to verbs, participles, adjectives, and other adverbs, the meaning of which they



modify, and near to which they should be placed.

EXAMPLES:—that lady walks *gracefully* ; the troops were seen marching *rapidly* towards the river ; words *fitly* spoken ; the king became *extremely* odious to the people ; he spoke *very* eloquently.

*Note 1.* When an auxiliary is used, the adverb is commonly placed between the auxiliary and the principal verb:—I have *often* seen him ; she is *much* admired. When two auxiliaries are used, the adverb is commonly placed after the second:—they have been *properly* punished. But in regard to the position of adverbs no invariable rule can be given.

*Note 2.* Two negatives, whether adverbs or not, when used in the same sentence, destroy each other, and the expression is affirmative:—*nor* did they *not* perceive him ; that is *no* uncommon occurrence.

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## RULE IX.

The several parts of a sentence should correspond to each other, and the relations of time, contrast, and comparison be carefully observed.

EXAMPLES of the violation of this rule will best explain its meaning and shew its importance:—"a beautiful field and trees ;" here *a beautiful* cannot refer to trees ; the repetition of *beautiful* alone before trees will render the sentence correct, for that will lead the hearer to understand that the adjective *a* is dropped ; a beautiful field and beautiful trees.

"The Court of chancery mitigates and breaks the teeth of the common law." The natural construction of this sentence is, that the court *mitigates* the *teeth*, &c. If it should be desirable to make use of these words, they

might, to express what was probably intended, be arranged thus:—the court of chancery mitigates the common law, and breaks the teeth of it.

The relations of time should be observed by the use of the proper tenses ; and to ascertain what tenses should be used, it is necessary to fix in the mind the time, or relative time, of the actions described by each verb in the sentence, or specified by other words:—"I feared that I should have lost the parcel before I arrived at the city;" here the apprehended loss must have been subsequent to the fear, but *should have lost* denotes a previous, or the same, time. It should be, I feared that *I should lose* the parcel, &c.

"I will pay the vows which my lips have uttered when I was in trouble." The vows were uttered when (at the same time) he was in trouble ; both verbs should therefore be in the same tense :—which my lips *uttered*.

"It would have afforded me satisfaction, if I could perform it." The satisfaction could not have been previous to the performance ; but the tense used denotes a previous time. The sentence would be rendered correct by changing either of the tenses :—*it would afford*—or, if *I could have performed* it.

"There was a time when I intended to have written." The time of writing must have been subsequent to the intention :—*intended to write*.

"This is a book which proves itself to be written by the person whose name it bears." The book must have been written before the time denoted by the verb *proves* :—*to have been written* is the proper tense.

"They have resided in Italy until a few months ago." The clause, *a few months ago*, separates, from present time, the time to which the verb refers, and the use of the present past tense is therefore improper ; the past tense, *resided*, should have been used.

The relations of contrast and comparison are generally expressed by conjunctions and adjectives. Certain conjunctions have corresponding conjunctions, both of which should be used when opposition or conformity is intended to be expressed : thus, *neither* requires *nor*—*either*, or—*though*, *yet* or *nevertheless*—*as*, *as* or *that*—*so*, *as* or

*that*. *Some*, *such*, *so much*, and *as much*, require *as* ; and adjectives in the comparative degree require *than*.

The following sentence, therefore, violates the rule above given :—he was more beloved, but not so much admired, as Cinthio. Here *more* is not followed by its corresponding word *than*. The sentence may be corrected thus :—he was *more* beloved *than*, but not *so much* admired *as*, Cinthio ; or better thus :—he was more beloved than Cinthio, but not so much admired ;—*as Cinthio* being understood at the end.

In the following sentences the rule is violated :

Neither the cold or (nor) the fervid, but characters uniformly warm, are formed for friendship.

The dog in the manger would not (neither) eat the hay himself, nor suffer the ox to eat it.

They had no sooner risen, but (than) they applied themselves to their studies.

Be ready to succor such persons who (as) need your assistance.

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## DIRECTIONS FOR PARSING.

Parsing is but an exercise prescribed to the scholar for the purpose of ascertaining the progress he has made in the study of Grammar, of rendering more familiar to him the knowledge he has acquired, and of enabling him to apply it.

George struck me.

“George” is a proper noun in the singular number, third person, masculine gender, and nominative case ; “struck” is a transitive verb in the indicitive mode, past tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with *George*, its nominative ; “me” is a personal pronoun in the first person, singular number, objective case, and is governed by the transitive verb, *struck*.



## Vice produces misery.

“Vice” is a common noun in the singular number, third person, neuter gender, and nominative case ; “produces” is a transitive verb in the indicative mode, present tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with its nominative, *vice* ; “misery” is a common noun in the singular number, third person, neuter gender, objective case, and is governed by *produces*.

## Peace and joy are virtue’s crown.

“Peace” is a common noun in the singular number, third person, neuter gender, and nominative case ; “and” is a copulative conjunction ; “joy” is a common noun, &c. ; (the number, person, gender, and case, should be mentioned by the scholar) ; “are” is an intransitive verb in the indicative mode, present tense, third person, plural number, and agrees with *peace* and *joy* ; “virtue’s” is a common noun in the singular number, neuter gender, third person, and possessive case ; “crown” is a common noun in the singular number, third person, neuter gender, and nominative case, being preceded by *are*, an intransitive verb.

## Neither vice nor folly confers happiness.

“Neither” is a disjunctive conjunction ; “vice” is a common noun, &c. ; “nor” is a disjunctive conjunction ; “folly” is a common noun, &c. ; “confers” is a transitive verb in the indicative mode, present tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with *vice* and *folly*, each separately, they being connected by a disjunctive conjunction ; “happiness” is a common noun in the neuter gender, singular number, third person, and objective case, and is governed by *confers*.

## ••They saw him pursuing the deer.

“They” is a personal pronoun in the third person, plural number, and nominative case ; “saw” is a transitive verb in the indicative mode, past tense, third person, plu-



ral number, and agrees with *they*; “him” is a personal pronoun in the third person, singular number, masculine gender, objective case, and is governed by *saw*; “pursuing” is an indefinite participle derived from *to pursue*, a transitive verb, and relates or belongs to *him*; “the” is a defining adjective, and belongs to *deer*; “deer” is a common noun in the third person, neuter gender, either number, objective case, and is governed by *pursuing*.

The boy will not be pardoned unless he should repent.

“The” is a defining adjective and belongs to the noun, *boy*; “boy” is a common noun, &c.; “will be pardoned” is a verb in the passive form, indicative mode, future tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with *boy*; “not” is an adverb, and modifies *will be pardoned*; “unless” is a disjunctive conjunction; “he” is a personal pronoun in the third person, masculine gender, singular number, nominative case, and agrees with *boy*; “should repent” is an intransitive verb in the conditional mode, indefinite tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with *he*. *Should* is often omitted, in similar expressions, but must be supplied in parsing.

Good works being neglected, devotion is false.

“Good” is a qualifying adjective and belongs to *works*; “works” is a common noun, &c.; “being neglected” is a past participle in the passive form, and relates to *works*; this clause standing independent of the rest of the sentence, the noun, *works*, is in the nominative case independent; “devotion” is a common noun, &c.; “is” is an intransitive verb, &c.; “false” is a qualifying adjective, and belongs to *devotion*.

To err is human.

“To err” is a verb in the infinitive mode, and indefinite tense; “is” is an intransitive verb, &c., and agrees with *to err*, its nominative; “human” is a qualifying adjective, and belongs to *to err*.

To countenance men, who are guilty of wicked actions, is highly criminal.

“To countenance” is a transitive verb in the infinitive mode, indefinite tense; “men” is a common noun, &c.; “who” is a relative personal pronoun in the third person, plural number, masculine gender, nominative case, and agrees with *men*, its antecedent; “are” is an intransitive verb, &c.; “guilty” is a qualifying adjective and belongs to *men*; “of” is a preposition; “wicked” is a qualifying adjective and belongs to *actions*; “actions” is a common noun in the third person, plural number, neuter gender, objective case, and governed by *of*; “to countenance men who are guilty of wicked actions,” being part of a sentence, is the nominative to *is*; “is” is an intransitive verb, &c.; “highly” is an adverb and modifies *criminal*; “criminal” is a qualifying adjective, and belongs to or qualifies the first part of the sentence.

Let me proceed.

“Let” is a transitive verb in the imperative mode; “me” is a personal pronoun in the first person, singular number, objective case, and governed by *let*; “proceed” is an intransitive verb in the infinitive mode, indefinite tense, the sign *to* being omitted.

He may go if he can.

“May go” is an intransitive verb in the potential mode, present tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with *he*; “can go” (*go* being understood) is an intransitive verb in the potential mode, present tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with the second *he*.

He might walk if he would.

“Might walk” is an intransitive verb in the conditional mode, indefinite tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with *he*; “would walk,” (*walk* being understood) is an intransitive verb in the conditional mode, indefinite tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with the second *he*.

If you had visited him, he would have been glad to see you.

“Had visited” is a transitive verb in the indicative mode, prior past tense, second person, plural number, and agrees with *you*; “would have been” is an intransitive verb in the conditional mode, past tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with *he*.

This bounty has relieved you and me, and has gratified the donor.

“This” is a defining adjective, and belongs to *bounty*; “bounty” is a common noun, &c.; “has relieved” is a transitive verb in the indicative mode, present past tense, third person, singular number, and agrees with *bounty*; “you” is a personal pronoun in the objective case, &c.; “and” is a conjunction; “me” is a personal pronoun in the objective case, &c.; *you* and *me* are governed by *has relieved*; “and” is a conjunction; “has gratified” is a transitive verb, &c., agreeing with *bounty*; “the” is a defining adjective and belongs to *donor*; “donor” is a common noun, &c., and is governed by *has gratified*.

Wait the great teacher, death, and God adore.

“Wait,” as here used, is a transitive verb in the imperative mode; “the” is a defining adjective and belongs to *teacher*; “great” is a qualifying adjective and belongs to *teacher*; “teacher” and “death” are common nouns, each signifying the same thing, in the singular number, neuter gender, objective case, and governed by *wait*; “and” is a conjunction; “adore” is a transitive verb in the imperative mode; “God” is a proper noun, in the singular number, masculine gender, objective case, and governed by *adore*.

Time flies, O how swiftly!

“Time” is a common noun, &c.; “flies” is an intransitive verb, &c.; “O” is an interjection; “how” is an adverb, and modifies *swiftly*; “swiftly” is an adverb, and modifies *flies*.

There the wicked cease from troubling, and there  
the weary be at rest.

“Wicked” is an adjective used as a noun; “cease” is an intransitive verb in the indicative mode, present tense, third person, plural number, and agrees with *wicked*; “weary” is an adjective used as a noun; “be” is an intransitive verb in the indicative mode, present tense, third person, plural number, and agrees with *weary*.

The sun, the centre of the universe, and the  
fountain of light, is the largest of the heavenly  
bodies.

“Sun,” “centre,” and “fountain” are common nouns, all meaning the same thing, and therefore constitute a nominative in the singular number; “is” is an intransitive verb in the singular number, &c., and agrees with *sun*, *centre*, and *fountain*.

A green coarse India silk umbrella, four feet in  
diameter.

“A” is a defining adjective and belongs to *umbrella*; “green” and “coarse” are qualifying adjectives and belong to *silk*; “India” is a defining adjective, and belongs to *silk*; “silk” is a defining adjective and belongs to *umbrella*; “umbrella” is a common noun, &c.; “four” is a defining adjective, and belongs to *feet*; “feet” is a common noun in the third person, neuter gender, plural number, and nominative case; “in” is a preposition; “diameter” is a common noun in the objective case, &c., and governed by *in*.

If he ask bread, will ye give him a stone?

“Ask” is a transitive verb in the conditional mode, indefinite tense, third person, singular number—*should be*—understood.



## NOTE A.

## COULD, MIGHT, SHOULD, AND WOULD.

These auxiliaries have been considered the past of *can*, *may*, *shall*, and *will* ; the following reasons tend to render it doubtful.

Dr. Webster asserts, in his Dictionary, that *could* is not the same verb as *can*, and does not come to us from the same language.

Horne Tooke, in his *Diversions of Purley*, says that *might*, (he is speaking of the noun) is derived from the third person singular of the Anglo-Saxon verb, *magan*, which, in that person, is spelled *maegeth*, or *maegthe*, and that it imports "what one mayeth." It is exceedingly probable that the auxiliary, *might*, has the same derivation.

The regular past of *will* is *willed* ; and no other instance is recollected of the same verb having two forms of the past tense so different from each other.

A learned etymologist, (Skinner or Junius,) represents *would* as synonymous with *vellem*, which is the present tense, subjunctive mode, of the Latin verb *volo*, to will.

The old word, *woulding*, is formed from *would* ; it is a participial noun, and such nouns are never formed from the past tense of verbs.

No other verbs form their past tense like *could*, *might*, *should*, and *would*.

They are used, it is true, to convey the same meanings as *can*, *may*, *shall*, and *will* ; but they are used also, even when all consideration of time is excluded, to convey other meanings, or different shades of meaning. They may also be used in the same tense, and with reference to the same period of time :

He *can*—*may*——*could*—*might*, go to-day.

He *shall*—*will*——*should*—*would*, go to-morrow.

He *can* not——*could* not, have reached Boston by this time.

He *may* have——*might* have, gone yesterday.

These auxiliaries seem to possess peculiar characteristics, inherited or acquired, and to form a class of words by themselves. *Ought*, however, may be classed with them, differing only in this, that it requires *to*, the sign of the infinitive, after it.

Like them, it requires the past tense of the infinitive to express past time :—The packet *could—might—should—would—ought to*—have sailed yesterday. Like them, when used with the indefinite of the infinitive, it refers to time present, or to time relatively future :—The packet *could—might—should—would—ought to*—sail to-day :—The instructor said, last week, that George *could—might—should—would—ought to*—begin to study grammar yesterday.

It is true that these auxiliaries, whatever may be their derivation, are often used to signify past time ; it is true, also, that they are often used indefinitely, and sometimes to signify present, and sometimes future time. That they are used with the indefinite of the infinitive, which, in such connection, points to the future, and thus, if they are actually in the past tense, forming a compound of past and future tenses, may account for their being sometimes used to signify present and future time.

The following extracts, in which these auxiliaries occur, are presented to the reader that he may determine for himself to what tense they belong, and whether they belong exclusively to a past, present, or future tense :—

I am come that they *might* have life, and that they *might* have it more abundantly. *Bible.*

And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world ; that they, which see not, *might* see, and that they, which see, *might* be made blind. *Ibid.*

Whatsoever ye *would* that others *should* do unto you, do ye even so unto them. *Ibid.*

For this cause, we also do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye *might* be filled with the knowledge of his will ; that ye *might* walk worthy of the Lord. *Ibid.*

Neither prosperity nor adversity *could* be borne entire and unmixed. Man, always prosperous, *would* be giddy and insolent ; always afflicted, *would* be sullen and despondent. *Blair.*

*Would* you be willing that all your actions *should* be publicly canvassed ? *Could* you bear to have your thoughts laid open ? Such investigation as this, sincerely pursued, *might* produce, to every man, many discoveries of himself. *Ibid.*

If to suffer were, indeed, all, and no advantage flowed from it, then *might* the existence of suffering be a proof, that he who *willed* it was defective in benevolence. It is a conclusion which we *might* indeed, be unwilling to admit, because, &c. *Brown.*

*Somerset.* Ah, *couldst* thou fly !  
*Warwick.* Why, then I *would* not fly. *Shakspeare.*

*Macbeth.* Wake Duncan with thy knocking ! Ay, *would*  
 thou *couldst* ! *Ibid.*

*Seyton.* The queen, my lord, is dead.

*Macbeth.* She *should have died* hereafter ;  
 There *would have been* a time for such a word.  
*Ibid.*

*Cassius.* O, I *could* weep the spirit from mine eyes. *Ibid.*

*Perdita.* Even now I tremble  
 To think your father, by some accident,  
*Should* pass this way, as you did. O, the fates !  
 How *would* he look to see his work so noble,  
 Vilely bound up ? What *would* he say ? Or how  
*Should* I, in these my borrowed flaunts, behold  
 The sternness of his presence ? *Ibid.*

*Wolsey.* I *would* your grace *would* give us but an hour  
 Of private conference. *Ibid.*

Think not so much where shining thoughts to place,  
 As what a man *would* say in such a case. *Buckingham.*

These islands *might* be wasted with fire and sword before  
 their sovereign *would* know their distress. A gang of robbers  
*might* lay a wide region under contribution. The crew of a  
 petty privateer *might* land on the largest and most wealthy,  
 and riot without control in cruelty and waste. *Johnson.*

To abstract the mind from all local emotion *would* be impos-  
 sible, if it were endeavored, and *would* be foolish if it were pos-  
 sible. That man is little to be envied whose patriotism *would*  
 not gain force upon the plain of Marathon, or whose piety *would*  
 not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona. *Ibid.*

The established practice of grammarians requires that I  
*should* here treat of the Syntax ; but our language has so little  
 inflection, or variety of terminations, that its construction  
 neither requires nor admits many rules. Wallis, therefore, has  
 totally neglected it ; and Jonson, whose desire of following the  
 writers upon the learned languages, made him think a syntax  
 indispensably necessary, has published such petty observations  
 as *were* better omitted. *Ibid.*



He must create a solitude around his estate, if he *would* avoid the face of reproach and derision. At Plymouth, his destruction *would* be more than probable; at Exeter, inevitable.

*Junius.*

I reserve something to awe him in case he *should* think of bringing you before the house of Lords. I am sure I can threaten him privately with such a storm as *would* make him tremble even in his grave.

*Ibid.*

I do not mean to perplex you with a tedious argument upon a subject already so discussed that inspiration *could* hardly throw a new light upon it.

*Ibid.*

In such a cause, your success *would* be deplorable, and victory hazardous. America, if she fell, *would* fall like the strong man. She *would* embrace the pillars of the state, and pull down the constitution along with her.

*Chatham.*

Next we shall see tyrants invade every possession that *could* tempt their cupidity, and violate every right that *could* obstruct their rage.

*Ames.*

The advocate of a policy thus reprobated *must* feel himself summoned, by every motive of self-defence, to vindicate his conduct: and if his general sense of his official duties *would* bind him to the industrious devotion of his whole time to the public business, the hours which he *might* be forced to employ for his own justification *would*, of course, be deducted from the discharge of his more regular and appropriate functions. *Should* these occurrences frequently recur, they *could* not fail to interfere with the due performance of the public business.

*J. Q. Adams.*

Were it merely that we *might* be correctly and speedily informed of the proceedings of the Congress, I *should* hold it advisable that we *should* have an accredited agency with them, placed in such confidential relations with the other members as *would* ensure the authenticity of its reports.

*Ibid.*

*Was* our government to prescribe to us our medicine and diet, our bodies *would* be in such keeping as our souls are now.

*Jefferson.*

If a sect arises, whose tenets *would* subvert morals, good sense has fair play, and reasons and laughs it out of doors, without suffering the state to be troubled with it. I doubt whether the people of this country *would* suffer an execution for heresy.

*Ibid.*



I *could* refer to the speeches of another gentleman of the same general character, but I will not consume the time of the Senate by reading them. *Webster.*

The duty of the government, at the present moment, *would* seem to be, to preserve, not to destroy. *Ibid.*

We know, or we *might* know, if we turned to the journal, who expressed respect, &c. *Ibid.*

*Would* to God, that harmony *might* again return. *Ibid.*

I have not accustomed myself to hang over the precipice of disunion, to see whether, with my short sight, I can fathom the depth of the abyss below ; nor *could* I regard him as a safe counsellor, whose thoughts *should* be mainly bent on considering, not how the union *should* be best preserved, but how tolerable *might* be the condition of the people, when it shall be broken up and destroyed. *Ibid.*

I felt it to be a contest for the integrity of the constitution ; and I was ready to enter into it, not thinking or caring, personally, how I *might* come out. *Ibid.*

Of all things capable of compelling this city to recede as fast as she has advanced, a broken or weakened union of the states *would* be sovereign. This *would* be cause sufficient ; it *would* be fatal as the arrow of death. *Ibid.*

It is not only of flippancy and rancor that we *could* convict this traveller ; in several instances, he *might* be shewn to be guilty of deliberate falsehood. *Walsh.*

Americans make no distinction where respect and confidence are abstractly due ; if, blended and compounded as we are, the case *could* be otherwise, it *would* not certainly be so in reference to Irishmen. *Ibid.*

Philosophers of every age have exhibited a disposition to treat the hunter, the fisherman, and the herdsman as true specimens of the ordinary growth of the human stock. This error is like that of a botanist, who *should* estimate the size of the great magnolia tree by the height that it reaches in the latitude of Boston ; and *should* consider the colossal stature and glorious display of flowers and foliage, with which nature adorns this splendid plant in the climate of Florida, as artificial and monstrous. *Everett.*

## NOTE B.

## CONDITIONAL MODE.

The following arguments are adduced to shew that the English language has a Conditional mode.

The auxiliaries *could*, *might*, *should*, and *would*, as they are generally used, express or imply a condition. The modification of the verb, when they help to form it, is precisely such as indicates a difference of mode. The difference between *I may now write* and *I might now write*, is of the same nature as that between *amo* and *amem*, in Latin, and *j'attends* and *j'attende*, in French.

If the English language has no conditional mode, it is difficult to make a just arrangement of the tenses. The auxiliaries, *may*, *can*, and *must*, when used with the indefinite (present) of the infinitive, are properly placed in the present tense of the potential mode. *Could*, *might*, *should*, and *would*, when used with the indefinite of the infinitive, belong to the same tense as much as to any other. They should not be placed in a past nor a future tense, for they are not used exclusively in either. There is the same difficulty in regard to such expressions as *may have loved*, and *might have loved*. Both refer to past time, and may refer to the same portion of past time, and must be placed, side by side, in the same tense, or in different modes:—He *may* have written yesterday; he *might* have written yesterday.—He *may* have written before I saw him; he *might* have written before I saw him.—he *may* have written after I saw him; he *might* have written after I saw him.

In most grammars the potential mode is said to have a perfect and a pluperfect tense. Such expressions as, *he may have written*, are placed in the perfect (present past) tense; and such as, *he might have written*, in the pluperfect (prior past) tense. The pluperfect is explained, correctly, “to denote past time, but as prior to some other past time specified.”—*England might have conquered America, if she had exerted her whole strength at the beginning of the contest*. In this sentence, *might have conquered* does not refer to a time prior to any other past time specified or implied.—On examination, it will be found, that the potential mode has neither a perfect, nor a pluperfect, tense, as those

tenses are defined, and correctly defined, in grammars. *May have written*, and *might have written*, belong, both of them, to a tense which may be correctly denominated a past tense, or a past tense indefinite; and as they are different modifications of the verb, *to write*, they belong to different modes.

The principal modern languages, to which the English has a closer affinity than to the ancient, have either a conditional mode, with two tenses, or two conditional tenses. In these two tenses are placed those forms of the verb which are analogous to the English forms, *would write*, and *would have written*. And it is worthy of remark, that *j'écriverais*, (French,) *io scriverei*, (Italian,) *yo escribiria*, (Spanish,) and *Ich wuerde schreiben*, (German,) each conveying the same meaning as *I would write*, are all placed in one of the conditional tenses, which is not considered a past tense. Some grammarians call it the conditional present, and some the conditional future.

The Encyclopedia Americana, in the article on the English language, has the following remarks, quoted from La Harpe, a French writer of some celebrity: "The English is still more overloaded than our own, (the French,) with auxiliaries, particles, articles, and pronouns; it has less conjugating also, and its modes are excessively limited. It has no conditional tense; it cannot say, as in French, *je ferois*, *j'irois*, &c.; but it is necessary to prefix to the principal verb one of these, *I would*, *I must*, *I could*, *I should have to*. It cannot be denied that these signs, incessantly repeated, and even equivocal in their signification, argue a deplorable poverty, and have a resemblance to barbarism."

It is not denied that the incessant repetition of these signs is more displeasing to the ear than the equally incessant repetition of the signs of modes and tenses at the end of French verbs; and this may account for the omission of them in expressions, which some grammarians, on account of this omission, have assigned to a subjunctive mode. But it is denied that the English language has no conditional tense. It has two, of which *could*, *might*, *should*, and *would* are the signs; and, in this respect, it has a decided advantage over the French. By means of these four signs, ideas may be expressed with more precision—different shades of meaning may be more distinctly denoted—than by the use of one termination only.



## NOTE C.

## THE SUBJUNCTIVE MODE.

As this mode is omitted in the enumeration, it may be proper to assign reasons for the opinion that there is no such mode in the language.

It is a characteristic of the Latin language to exhibit the relations of words, and certain modifications of their meaning, by inflection; in other words, by a change in the spelling. In the English language, inflection prevails so little that it cannot be called one of its characteristics. In the Latin, the spelling of nouns is changed to denote number and case; that of adjectives, to denote number, case, and gender; and that of verbs, to denote number, person, mode, and tense. In the English, the spelling of nouns is changed to denote but one case, and that of but few of them to denote gender; the spelling of adjectives is not changed to denote number, case, or gender; and but few changes, and they are slight, take place in the spelling of verbs; only one tense, the past, is so denoted. This defect, if it is one, is remedied by the frequent use of prepositions, pronouns, and conjunctions, and of a class of verbs called auxiliaries. The use of these, in the formation of modes and tenses, is a distinguishing characteristic of the language.

This comparison, or rather contrast, of the two languages is made to shew that the structure of one language furnishes no argument that the structure of another must be similar; and especially to shew that the structure of the Latin furnishes no proof of what ought to be the structure of the English. In deciding any doubtful question in regard to a language, reference should principally be had to its own prominent peculiarities or characteristics.

Should it be said that the Anglo-Saxon, the parent of the English, language, had a subjunctive mode, it may be replied, that the structure and rules of a language are liable to change as well as the words of which it is composed; that the subjunctive mode of the Anglo-Saxon has little resemblance to the subjunctive mode exhibited in most English grammars; that the Anglo-Saxon was itself a compound, uncultivated, unsettled language; and since the time of its formation many Danish



and Norman words and idioms have been incorporated with it ; that these different elements, each modifying the others, have, after a long period, produced a new language different from any of its component parts, and having laws and principles, a structure and an idiom, peculiar to itself. Anglo-Saxon nouns had several cases denoted by inflection. The formation of new prepositions, derived by contraction from other parts of speech, has rendered inflection less necessary for that purpose, and English nouns have but one case so denoted. The formation, in the same way, of new conjunctions, and the increased frequency of the use of auxiliaries, has rendered less necessary what is technically called the inflection of verbs. The use of auxiliaries is, in fact, equivalent to inflection.

In order to ascertain whether the English language has a subjunctive mode, it is sufficient to inquire, whether such a mode is necessary ; whether it is in harmony with the prominent characteristics of the language ; and whether it can be shewn to belong to it by the actual, prevailing practice of those who speak and write it.

The subjunctive mode, by which is meant a mode of that name exhibited in most English grammars, is not necessary ; for doubt, contingency, and dependence may always be expressed by the use of auxiliaries, and of words belonging to other parts of speech, particularly conjunctions. *If God afflict thee, repine not.* This expression would, by most grammarians, be considered proper, without supposing an ellipsis, and the verb would be assigned to the present tense of the subjunctive mode. But if the speaker intended to refer to present time, his meaning would have been as clearly expressed by saying, *If God afflicts thee, or, if God does afflict thee, repine not.* The conjunction *if* is quite sufficient to mark the distinction between a positive and a doubtful assertion. If the speaker intended to refer to something contingent or future, he might have expressed his meaning, with at least equal clearness, by saying, *If God should afflict thee, repine not.*

Nay, more. The subjunctive mode is not only unnecessary, but the supposition that there is such a mode leads to the use of obscure and ambiguous expressions. The meaning of the sentence, *If God afflict thee, repine not*, is uncertain. Standing by itself, it may, according to the doctrine of most grammarians, refer to present time, or to a future contingent event. By using either the indicative or the conditional mode, according to the meaning intended to be conveyed, all obscurity and uncertainty are removed. *If God afflicts thee, repine not ; if*

God *should afflict* thee, repine not. It is doubted whether a similar expression can be cited that could not in the same manner be improved.

The form of the verb in the subjunctive mode, as exhibited in most English grammars, (and it is only difference of form that denotes difference of mode,) is not distinguished from the form which it has in the indicative, in any tense but the present, nor in any other way than by the omission of the terminating letters in the second and third persons singular. This manner of distinction is not in accordance with any peculiarity or characteristic of the language. The modification of meaning is not denoted, as in the infinitive, potential, and conditional modes, by a prefix or auxiliaries. The remaining five tenses are precisely like those of the indicative. It is certainly singular that there should be two modes in a language, each having six tenses, and one mode differing from the other in only the second and third persons singular of one tense.

The form of the verb in the present tense of the supposed subjunctive mode is always the same as that of the indefinite of the infinitive; that is to say, it is the same as when an auxiliary is used. Is it not, therefore, in most cases, and in all where the expression is proper, merely the case of an ellipsis of some one of the auxiliaries? Though he *injure* me, yet I will not injure him;—supply the proper auxiliary, and the sentence will be grammatical and perspicuous;—though he *should injure* me, yet I will not injure him. The verb will then be in the conditional mode. Where an auxiliary cannot be supplied, the verb retains the indicative form:—If thou *didst love* him, or if thou *lovedst* him, thou wouldst not have deserted him;—and this strongly confirms the opinion that what is supposed to be a subjunctive mode is but the case of an ellipsis of an auxiliary.

The subjunctive mode cannot be shewn to belong to the language, by referring to the prevailing practice of those who speak and write it. The illiterate do not use it. The learned do not invariably use it. It is a habit which sits easy on no one—a holiday dress worn with constraint, and never worn but in compliance with the precepts of a master; and it is laid aside the instant those precepts are forgotten. That good writers do not use it, even in cases where grammarians declare it to be proper, is established by Dr. Webster, who, in the introduction to his Dictionary, cites a multitude of examples of the neglect of it. Indeed, hardly any book can be examined

that does not present similar examples ; and many books present no example of the use of it.

And here it may be proper to remark, that many expressions, properly assignable to the subjunctive mode, if such a mode exists, are not condemned as ungrammatical. It is only the doctrine, that the force of a conjunction, or the doubtfulness of the idea, has an influence upon the form of the principal verb, that is objected to. The idea intended to be conveyed may require that a conjunction, or an auxiliary, or both, should be used or understood ; but it does not require that the terminating letters denoting the second and third persons singular should be omitted. Those who contend for a subjunctive mode are doubtless of opinion that, in the expression, *If thou prosper, be not elated*, *prosper* is the whole of the verb ; that no auxiliary is understood, and that the influence of the conjunction, or the idea it conveys, impresses upon it that particular form : it is the contrary doctrine, that the expression is grammatical, but not so perspicuous as it might be ; that the verb belongs to the conditional mode, indefinite tense ; that *prosper* retains the form of the indefinite of the infinitive ; and that the auxiliary, *should*, is understood and ought to be expressed :—*If thou shouldst prosper, be not elated*. In some expressions the auxiliary, *shall*, is understood, and, in such cases, the verb must be considered in the indicative mode, future tense. Those expressions only are considered ungrammatical where present time is referred to, and where the verb is in the second or third person singular, and yet retains the form of the indefinite of the infinitive :—*If thou love thy neighbor, why dost thou avoid him ?*

It is in the present and past tenses of the verb *to be* that what is supposed to be a subjunctive mode appears most frequently in the writings of authors who have a high reputation for purity and correctness of style. *If he be, if he were, &c.* are almost invariably used by them instead of *if he is, if he was, &c.* But these are not, strictly speaking, different forms of the same verb ; they are different words conveying the same meaning. *Be* and *were* were not endued with these forms for the sole purpose of being used in a subjunctive mode. *If thou beest*, (where *be*, though preceded by a conjunction, has the regular indicative termination) occurs in Milton and Shakespeare, if not in later writers. *Be* is often used, in the Bible, to convey a certain, positive meaning. *Be* and *were* are yet used to convey a certain, positive meaning by the illiterate, that class among which peculiar, primitive idioms linger the longest : *thou wert*



often occurs, without a conjunction, in the writings of the best authors of the present age ; and if that is correct English, *I were* and *he were*, used without a conjunction, must be correct English also. The English using different sets of words, for the substantive verb, in the present and past tenses, it is not surprising that the custom should have arisen, among scholars attached to the Latin, of using one of them in positive, and the other in doubtful, expressions. This custom violates no law, and no law but that of custom, which is not universal, would be violated by using them indiscriminately. *Be* and *am*, *were* and *was*, belonged once to the same mode, the indicative, and they belong to the same mode still, unless the precepts of grammarians, and the custom they have introduced, have had the force to change an old law of the language, or to introduce a new one. (See the conjugation of *to be* in the Grammar.)

For these reasons, the subjunctive mode, found in other English grammars, has been omitted in this. It would not have been omitted had it been firmly established. Discarding it is but repealing an almost obsolete statute ; it is but legalising a practice, not *malum in se*, but, in fact, *bonum prohibitum* by the grammarians.

THE END.







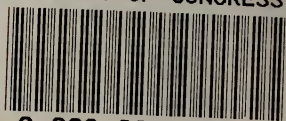








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